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Governance and Service Policy of Public Libraries in Turkey

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Content

- ▶ Some theoretical remarks on public library
- ▶ Short history of public libraries in Turkey
- ▶ Governance, system, and organization of public libraries in Turkey
- ▶ Discussion and conclusion

Some Theoretical Remarks

- ▶ Public libraries are social and democratic institutions.
- ▶ Their main functions are enabling the realization of society's right to equal access to information.
- ▶ Public libraries are one of the most important indicators of the social, cultural and educational development levels of a country.
- ▶ They create opportunities to bridge the digital divide in today's information societies.
- ▶ Because equal access to information is the main function of public libraries.
- ▶ Public libraries are institutions that strengthen the knowledge-based critical view by expanding the limits of freedom of thought in society.
- ▶ They also reduce the negative impact of globalization on local cultures.

The realization of the above purposes and functions of public libraries primarily depends on having rational and efficient management and service structures

Short History of Turkish Public Libraries

- ▶ Turkey has a library tradition of more than nine centuries, beginning during the Anatolia Seljuk period (1072-1299) and continuing through the Ottoman Empire, 1299-1922.
- ▶ In 1869, libraries were connected to the Ministry of Education and obtained civil service identity for the first time. In 1882 the public library service was established by the government.
- ▶ Between 1912 and 1918, many public libraries were established under the title of 'national library'.
- ▶ With the founding of the Republic in 1923, there was a realization of the social and cultural role of public libraries.
- ▶ One of the most important reforms at this time was the change from the Arabic alphabet to Latin (1928).
- ▶ From 1960, they were included in the five-year development plans in Turkey.

Public libraries have generally been shaped by the political approach and influence of the state in Turkish history

Governance, System and Organization of Public Libraries in Turkey

- ▶ Turkey's population is around 84 million and the country is organized into 7 geographic regions with 81 provinces.
- ▶ Since 1960, all public libraries are administered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Libraries and Publications.
- ▶ Sub-departments and branches are located in the organization of the General Directorate of Libraries and Publications (GDLP)

Governance, System and Organization of Public Libraries in Turkey

1. Libraries Department

- ▶ Library automation branch
- ▶ Material supply and distribution branch
- ▶ Technical services branch
- ▶ User services branch
- ▶ Library planning branch

2. Library Standards Department

- ▶ Cataloging-classification branch
- ▶ Collection conservation branch
- ▶ Bibliography branch
- ▶ National library material provision branch
- ▶ Publication standards branch

Governance, System and Organization of Public Libraries in Turkey

3. Collection Department

- ▶ Manuscripts and rare works collection branch
- ▶ Digital collection branch
- ▶ Periodical collection branch
- ▶ Book collection branch
- ▶ Non-book material collection branch

4. Personnel and Financial Affairs Department

- ▶ Personnel branch
- ▶ Financial affairs branch
- ▶ Purchasing branch
- ▶ Administrative affairs and documentation branch

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5. Management Services Department

- ▶ Media and public relations branch
- ▶ Foreign relations branch
- ▶ Internal services branch
- ▶ Information systems branch

6. Strategic Management Department

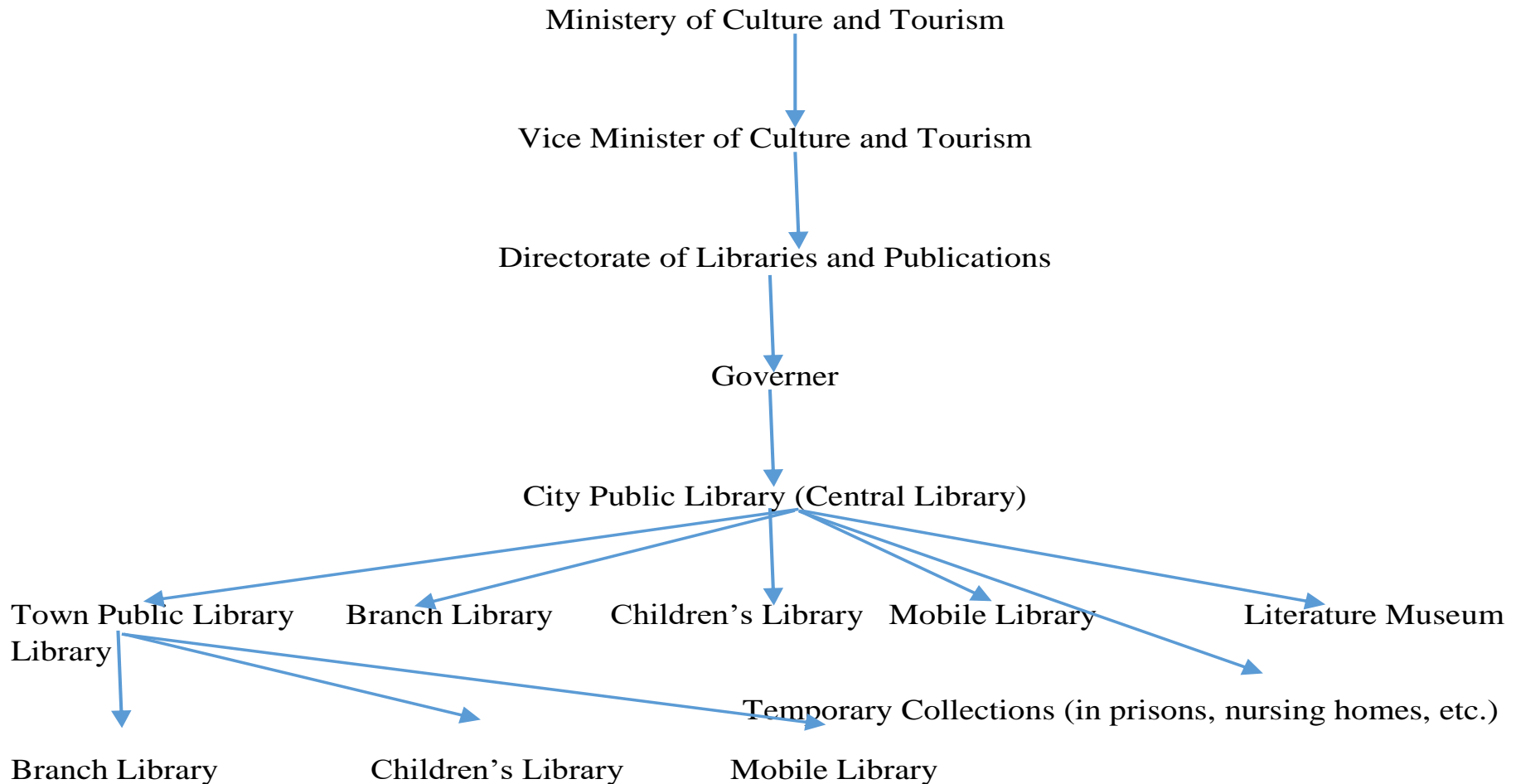
- ▶ Statistics and Data Analysis Branch
- ▶ Internal Control Branch
- ▶ Budget and Performance Branch
- ▶ Strategic Planning Branch

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7. Publications Department

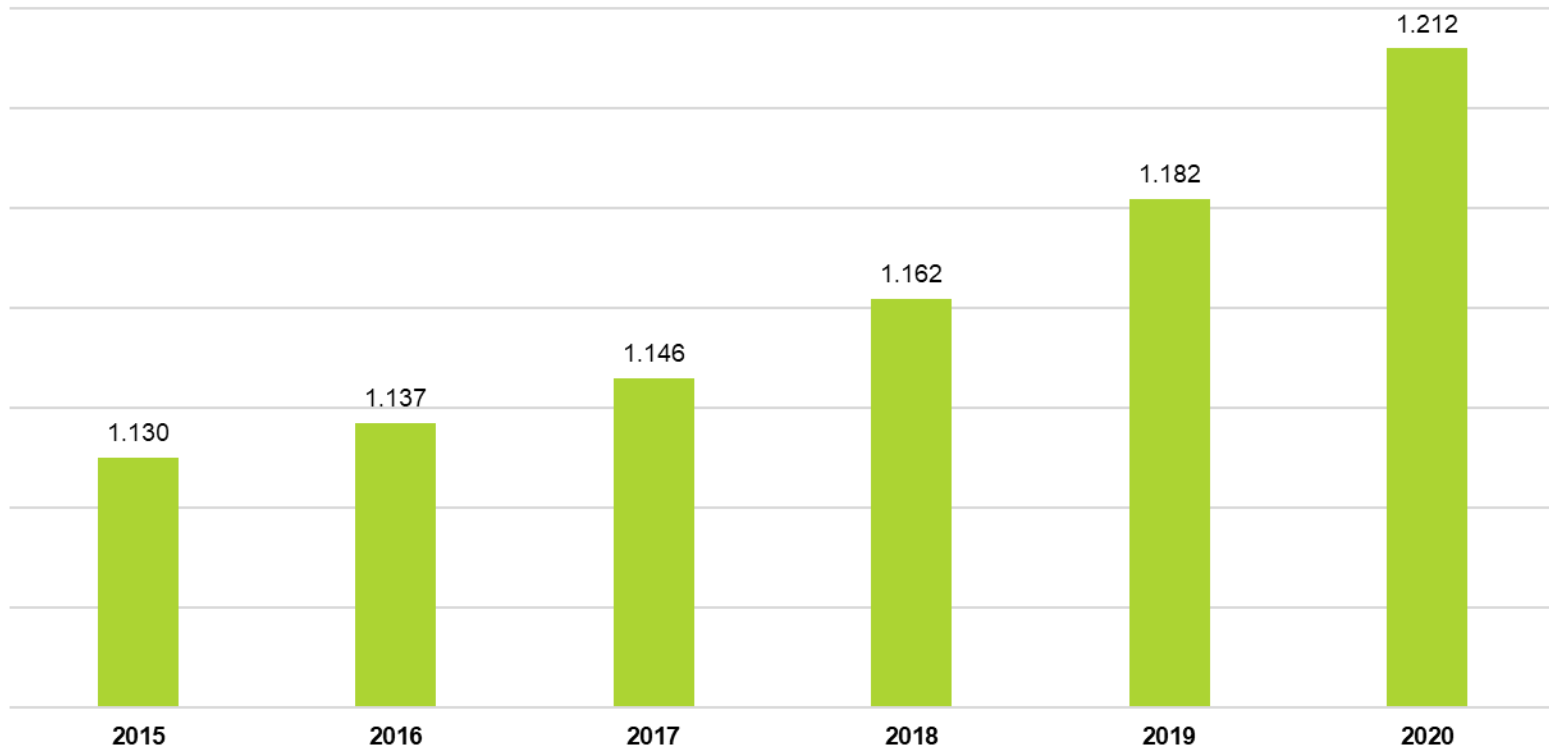
- ▶ Publishing affairs and fairs branch
- ▶ Literary production promotion branch
- ▶ Publication planning branch
- ▶ Supporting the foreign expansion of Turkish literature branch

The Organizational Structure of the Public Libraries in Turkey



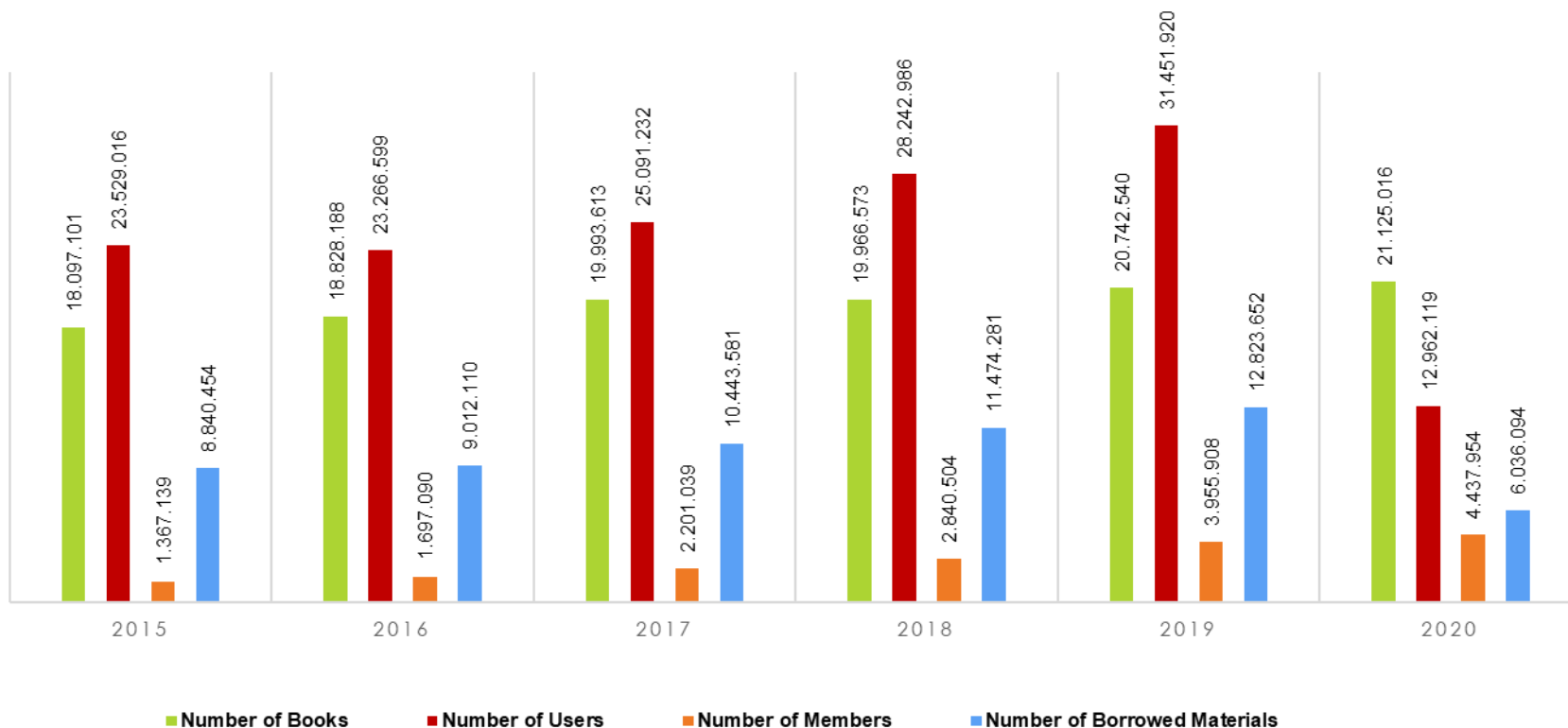
Number of Public Libraries in Turkey

Number of Public Libraries (2015-2020)



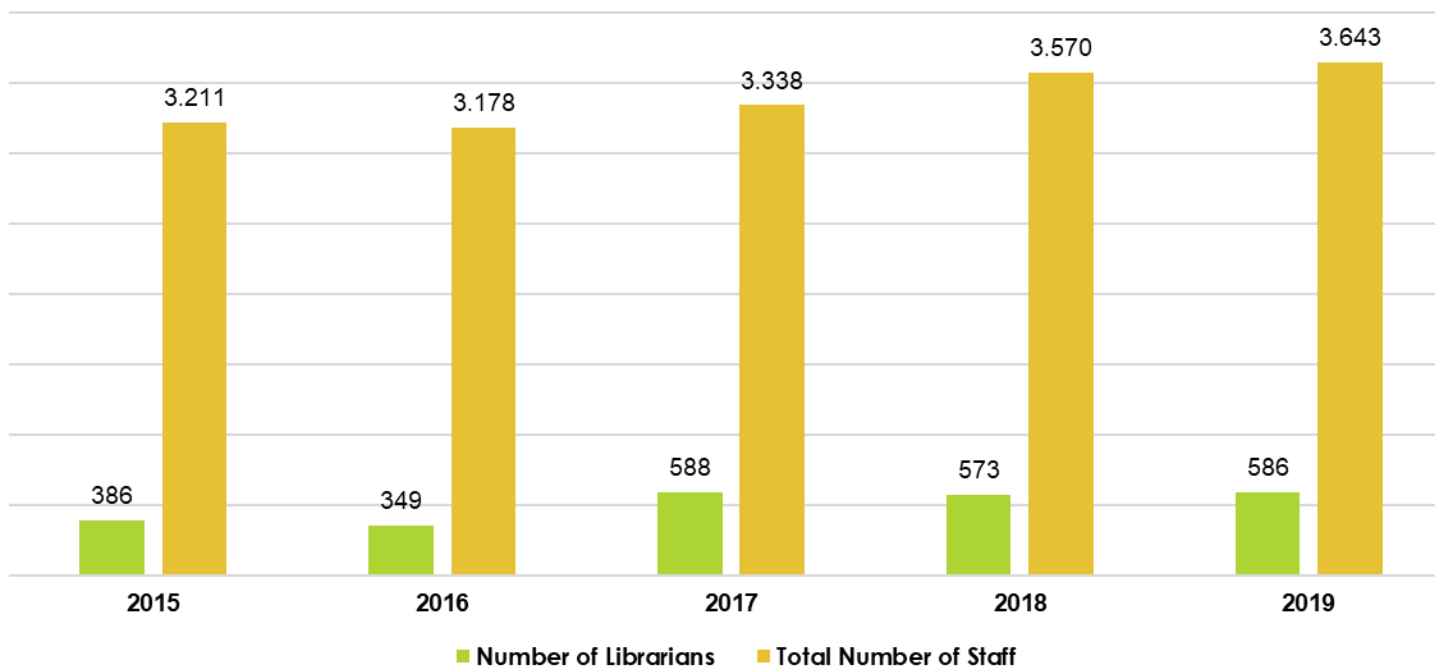
General Status of Public Libraries in Turkey

General Status of the Public Libraries in 2015-2020



Number of Library Staff in Public Libraries in Turkey

Status of the Public Library Staff (2015-2019)



Public Library Services in Turkey

- ▶ Technical services
- ▶ User services
- ▶ Administrative services

Discussion

- ▶ The main problem for public libraries in Turkey is the central administrative/management structure.
- ▶ Another important administrative and systemic problem is the lack of a strategic approach.
- ▶ One of the major problems for public libraries in Turkey is that they are often used for study as if they were a school library.

Discussion

- ▶ The personnel issue, which is one of the structural elements of public libraries, is also among the most important problems.
- ▶ The number of public libraries in Turkey is extremely low.
- ▶ The fact that the collection development process in public libraries is carried out by the central organization (GDLP) to a great extent leads to the formation of an unqualified, dysfunctional and unused collection.

Conclusion

- ▶ Especially in the information age and society we live in, the social functions of public libraries have increased and diversified. Their roles in bridging the digital divide, reducing digital inequality, providing equal access to information for disadvantaged individuals and segments of society have led to their rediscovery after the Industrial Revolution.
- ▶ We will understand if they can seize this opportunity, which can be called the "second great birth" of public libraries in history.
- ▶ It is also clear that public libraries face serious challenges from many competitors in this regard.

Thank you very much for your attention!