



## Enriching News Collections and Services in Turkey

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### **Abstract :**

*The main goal of this paper is to provide an overview of the latest trends of news collections, services and newspaper digitization in Turkey. In Turkey there are many examples of good practice in building news collections and providing library service to users at the national library, university libraries, public libraries and archives. However, it is impossible to find professional information about Turkey, this study pays extra attention to describing news and newspaper collections services at the Turkish Libraries. This is significant because it indicates examples from library practice and from user experience for researchers, librarians, information managers, scholars to explore not only current library services, but also expected future services in Turkey. To attempt to answer how researchers use newspapers and how new digital technologies can improve library practices and help create multi-partner program, a new definition of news collections and services is needed that is more closely related to their function in society.*

*This study will summarize and discuss the findings as well as the strengths and weaknesses of these news collections—especially newspapers programs in Turkey. It will also make recommendations for future research and new projects.*

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### **Introduction**

Traditional news media are converging into digital media, with newspapers, magazines, television, Internet, video clips, news broadcasting and radio stations all producing and maintaining news websites. Using information technology to bring news to the user's desktop in order to improve the accessibility of media resources is a major goal of libraries for specific purposes as well as for the participating changes currently taking place in the media scene.

Despite the growing presence of news on the Internet, a library's newspaper collection has continued to play a vital role in the community with improving the existing situation. Creative adoption of new technologies has fuelled the evolution of news collections—especially newspapers in libraries and holds promise for the future.

As digital media grow more popular, many of millennial population say they have both interest in buying or reading traditional newspapers and getting information from the Internet or other electronic contacts. What we do not know as yet, however, is which combination of elements (technological, social, cultural, historical, political, organizational and economic) makes for a successful implementation, “successful” meaning that users need to use news and above all actually use it for their research, study and a specific tool. An important part of the national experiment, therefore, is to provide a brief overview of the news and the collection of newspapers, especially traditional mass media collections, on the user behavior under different technological, social, cultural, historical, political, organizational and economic conditions. Some of the national research studies have built – in major statistical usage tracking applications to do detailed behavior studies in the coming years. In addition to these national research projects, several countries have digitized large amounts of newspapers, focused on preservation, and provided the latest information both on the current regional activities as well as the technological progress.

In providing an overview of news collections and explaining the nature of newspapers collection developments in Turkey, this research results will be directing the new services into guided facilities for newspapers collections.

## **Improving News – Related Information Services**

Traditional media are defined as newspaper, radio, and television. Nontraditional media are defined as Internet, cell phones, blog, social networking sites, podcast, magazine. Beginning in the 1950s, information centers began to recognize the need to focus their attention to the news “collections” converge. Newspapers have been striving for the electronic future since the early 1960s when computers entered the composing room. From then until today there is a straight line of continuous increased use of more sophisticated systems. The first steps were taken in the 1970s to solve internal newspaper problems such as replacing the archive clipping files with their modern counterpart, the electronic library. External access is mainly possible through database hosts and complex search structures combined with costs have held back development of a nonprofessional market. Then in the 1980s came teletex and videotext. The newspaper database content could be used here also. However, the user interface and the equipment revealed the true background of the technology: it was the engineer's solution looking for problems. These efforts have continued to help individuals conducted subject searches in media sources which were paper, microfilm and electronic formats. The newspapers were the premier sources for news until the 1990s, when a new technology came onto the scene that allowed individuals to not only read the news, but to retrieve them. Information centres can provide a place where the newspapers are easily accessible.

To make useful connections and to understand why individuals choose to use newspapers collections or digital newspaper archives, libraries are commonly improved to support news – related information services, such as (Andersson 1996; Boczkowski 2004, Bucy 2004; Cheney, et. al 2006; Dutta – Bergman 2004; Garrison 2005; Gillmor 2004; Kiouisis 2002; Önal 2008; Önal 2007; The Project for ...2010; Walravens 2006):

- Creating newspapers collections and theirs digital archives;
- Managing collections of newspaper clippings;
- Improving news related reference services;
- Converting newspapers to different forms such as paper, microform, or digital;
- Helping researchers identify which specific newspaper were included in the various aggregators;
- Preparing national technical standards by inventorying standards employed in current projects;
- Creating portals of digital newspapers;
- Developing awareness of newspapers contents were used;
- Improving newspaper reading areas;
- Educating users to become creators of news and information as well as consumers;
- Planning to develop newspaper services;
- Enriching and enlarging of the newspaper digitization programme.

## **Historical Perspectives and Issues in Turkey**

The newspaper industry has hundreds of years of experience in publishing. Paper was simply the only practical substrate available for the distribution of the information, and that is no longer the case. Today the digital communications revolution offers the newspaper a chance to overcome the limitations of printing on newsprint – a process left over from the industrial age. As a matter of fact, convergence of media taking place on the Web led to more intense competition among online news businesses.

The first printed periodical publication carrying news written by and for Turks was Vekayi-i Misriye, which began appearing in Cairo in both Turkish and Arabic in October 20, 1828. Three years later, Takvim – i Vekayi began publishing in Istanbul in the 1831s. Istanbul has been leading center of print media, publishing important newspapers earlier than most Turkish cities; it continues to hold leading positions in journalism, publishing and media studies into the twenty – first century. Koloğlu (2006) offers historical and contemporary review of the press in Turkey divided into four parts:

1. The earliest Ottoman presses: This part is arranged primarily by the time periods
  - 1828 – 1878 Government press
  - 1878 – 1908 Censored press
  - 1908 – 1919 Research and developments in press

2. Media and press in Turkish Republic
  - 1919 – 1945 Republican period
  - 1945 – 1960 Politicized period
  - 1961 – 1980 Multicultural and economical issues in press
3. From 24 January 1980 to 21<sup>st</sup> century in press
4. Future trends in the press
  - Freedom of the press
  - Readership
  - Enhancing the professionalism
  - Challenges to the development of a contemporary
  - Information technologies and digital media products.

The interrelated concepts of the Turkish press and media studies have recently become the following characteristics generally prevail ( Çaplı 2002; Önal 2008; Önal 2007; Önal 2006):

- A relatively weak economic base is characterized by fewer publications, more entertainment news stories.
- They suffer from reading problems and book sales are therefore limited.
- Media are still seen as important political instruments.
- Mass media came to dominate, especially television cultures play a larger role than other forms of communication in the daily lives.
- Information technologies, reinforcing social norms, conveying news and information of general interest, cultural awareness, advertising, and entertaining have combined to contribute to the changes currently taking place in the Turkish media scene.
- Newspaper operations are the core of the news industry.
- Today, daily newspapers use advanced technology and have correspondents throughout the country and in many centres abroad. They make use of the services of international news agencies. The circulation of individual newspapers varies and also special news features. Aside from Cumhuriyet all are printed in colour.
- When computing technologies became affordable, accessible, and adaptable in the late 1990s, the newspaper industry and historical newspapers had a rich new opportunity and as-yet untapped resources.
- In 1990s the libraries and archives prepared plans as to how they expect to implement the program for news and newspapers collections on their libraries or archives.
- The Internet has increasingly become a major source of news for the public. The Internet and related technologies have greatly transformed the nature of news and the way news audiences interact with news stories and others online.

- The current newspapers have been converted print product to digital form.
- Users actively seek out news and determine when and what kind of news they obtain.

## **National Information Centres for News and Newspaper Collections in Turkey**

This research is presented through an analysis of 215 selected libraries, 22 archives, and 67 press institutions, 33 archives of the national daily newspapers, 35 national and international press centres and 18 news agencies all of which are involved in the collection of news, newspapers and Web sites a clearer picture of the current usage of newspapers and general trends in digitalization.

This study presents to survey on the current state of news and newspapers collections within selected parts of the press community. Several organizations within this community have been contacted and researched to develop a profile. The intent of this effort is to carefully research a wide range of organizations involved in the creation data on news and newspapers collections, including libraries, archives and information centres. The general research on these organizations, both from open source documents and through discussions, has been done to find out related information, including:

- The nature of the national information centres for news and newspaper collections in Turkey;
- The nature of the organization's collections;
- The nature of the expected future activities.

As far as possible, a wide range and large number of organizations have been contacted for evaluating the current state of information centres.

Table 1. gives an overview on the nature of national information centres for news and newspaper collections in Turkey.

Table 1. Nature of National Information Centres for News and Newspaper Collections in Turkey

<b>Nature of Institutions</b>	<b>Conceptual Definitions</b>
Archives	Newspapers, news and articles are chosen and indexed to topics that are important; Newspapers are stored in considerable quantity as archival materials in the central and regional archives of Turkey, and in smaller numbers in the city and district archives.
Depository Libraries and Institutions	Current and historical newspapers since 1934. They provide legal deposit materials and worldwide collection. Assorted newspapers; to service the needs of public and the community, teaching and research. Open to all scholars. Series control by indexes, cards and computer files. Newspapers room organised in current manner. They catalogued in newspapers room; related books catalogued centrally. All first – last – and special issues of Turkish newspapers, comprehensive historical coverage, preservation of currently produced online newspaper content, retrospective digitization of historical newspapers.
The National Daily Newspapers Archives at the Media Centres	They provide a mass of current and back issue content on the web for full text searching by journalists. Text in both paper and digital form.
Libraries and Archives at the News Agencies	Using online news because of easy and convenient ways to get information.
Different Types of Libraries	Begin to integrate the digitisation to the libraries ordinary function.
Journalist	Individual archives in the paper and digital forms
Information Centres at the Radio and TV News Channels	Improve access to products of Turkish news, newspapers and press using current technologies.
Special libraries	More comfortable, accessible, plentiful, flexible, and e – library services

The following Table 2. contains contact information for some of the important sources of newspaper collections. Each source includes a brief notation regarding the types of services available.

Table 2. Newspapers collections and services in the libraries, archives and institutions

<b>The name of the institution</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Operational Definitions</b>
<b>A T A S E Arşivi</b> (Military History and Strategic Study of the General Staff Archive) Bakanlıklar, Ankara	Seeking specific information more purposefully	Text in digital form sophisticated graphics for local and community news.
<b>Başbakanlık Basın Yayın Enformasyon Genel Müdürlüğü</b> (Office of the Prime Minister Directorate General of Press and Information ) Bakanlıklar - Ankara	Degree of trust in governmental policies and practices	Text in digital form sophisticated graphics for local and community news, instant messaging.
<b>Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivi</b> (Government Archives) İvedik Caddesi Yenimahalle, Ankara	News cover from 1990 and afterwards. Newspaper news and articles are chosen and indexed to topics that are important in Turkey.	Text in digital form sophisticated graphics for local and community news, instant messaging.
<b>Beyazıt Devlet Kütüphanesi</b> (Beyazıt State Library ) Beyazıt İmaret Sokak No.18-20 34450 Beyazıt – İstanbul	Historical newspapers of Ottoman Empire, Turkey and foreign languages. Current newspapers.	Text in paper form, availability of scanner and photocopies.
<b>İstanbul Üniversitesi Merkez Kütüphanesi</b> (The Central Library of the University of Istanbul) Beyazıt, İstanbul	National and local newspapers are stored.	Text in paper form, availability of news service archives in both traditional and virtual environments.
<b>İzmir Milli Kütüphanesi</b> (Izmir National Library) İzmir	All newspaper collections from 1900s to present in its shelves, is one of the largest archives of Turkey.	Text in paper form, beginning of the integration of online and off-line news services.
<b>Milli Kütüphane</b> (The Turkish National Library) Bahçelievler – Ankara	Traditional news media services helping with using online news sites.	Text in both paper and digital form, participating in online polls.
<b>T B M M Kütüphane ve Dokümantasyon Merkezi</b> (T B M M Parliament Library and Documentation Center Library ) Bakanlıklar – Ankara	Central library contains historical and current news collections. Department libraries have special collections.	Text in digital form sophisticated graphics for local and community news, instant messaging.
<b>Selçuk Üniversitesi Kütüphanesi</b> (Library) Konya	Newspaper collection developed with 6883 volumes the beginning as part of the main University library since 1920.	Working with the various information technologies currently available on the Web.

The very nature of news and newspapers collections using facilitation has changed, with a stronger emphasis on the uses of information technologies and the rapid growth in news information systems and networked information, requiring specialist support in the development not only of users' information retrieval skills, but, more importantly, the ability to judge, evaluate and use information from a wide variety of sources.

Newspaper collections are the link between the academic community on news databases, archive and the library, between users and the library and between the library and the wider world of information. These collections acquire items and resources that support instructional programs. Today it would appear that the critical role of the newspaper collection is the key determinant to its future. It appears that newspaper collection is playing a more significant role in the national information system than previously. These materials store or present information in a wide variety formats, yet format or medium must not present an obstacle to access. The information as the news is the primary locator and gateway to resources in all formats. Librarians would like to integrate collections fully, some items cannot be placed physically side by side with other materials that cover the same subjects or concepts. In the newspaper collections, electronic integration may be easier to achieve than physical integration.

Issues to do with the future of newspaper collections and its role in the broader national information system are holding back developments including the development of the “news – newspapers – media information systems”.

## **Finding and Expected Future Activities**

Newspapers are a repository of information. As their history shows technological, social, cultural, historical, political, organizational and economic imperatives act as constraints to shape not only the development of newspapers collections, but also to preservation and access them in the different formats. Clearly, newspaper collections are changing and improving. News audiences are no longer passive consumers of news, but are increasingly becoming an integral part of the journalistic process in the rapidly evolving online environment. Table 3. shows future prospects of enriching and enlarging of the nature of national information centres for news and newspaper collections in Turkey.

In general, the power of new communication technologies lies in its power to declare different forms to be true, but in its power to provide to what can be preserved and in what format and perhaps most importantly, who is responsible and who will take responsibility in the long term. These are important questions that this rhetoric analysis helped bring into focus. Answering these questions means looking closely at the role and function of newspaper librarianship in Turkey. These are workable questions, not because they can be immediately addressed here a growing number of news libraries – archives – institutions , but because they introduce to provide the latest information both on the current activities in the fields of preservation and digitisation.

Table 3. Future Prospects of Enriching and Enlarging of the Nature of National Information Centres for News and Newspaper Collections in Turkey

<b>Current Activities</b>	<b>Expected Future Activities</b>
Formats: Paper, microform and digital	Text in multiple digital formats, including audio, text, video and graphic formats
Using news sources: Newspaper, radio, television	Using new media for news: Newspaper, radio, television, Internet, cell phones, social networking sites, blog, magazines
Converging current sources	Converging current sources and retrospective studies
Availability of news service archives	Online availability of news service archives
Multimedia publishing – integration of text, sound, and video	Multimedia publishing – online integration of text, sound, and video
Individual news service	Integration of online and off – line news can be hyperlinked to other related news and information in archives
Special courses	Educating librarians and archivist, preparation of terminology and special publication.
Traditional studies	Preparation catalogues and creating subject classification for the Web page on scholarly communication.
Traditional information services	Cooperative information services that collect, preserve, produce, deliver and retrieve news on the Web.

## **Conclusion**

Digital technologies can expand the definition of news because of real – time capability and ability to provide a 24 – hour news cycle. The technologies also allow for audience – generated and personalized news and the construction of nonlinear stories. We believe the future of news and the practice of news librarianship will be a hybrid of traditional structures, such as narrative forms, as well as entirely new Web genres, such as blogs.

The digitization began nearly ten years ago. But it is not easily available to scholars and public. The growing number of news archives, Web sites, libraries and the increased importance of online news call for a need to understand how people use online news in conjunction with traditional newspapers, news media and to what extent use of online news

influences the traditional news use. Unlike prior studies of newspaper librarianship, this study pays more attention to exploring how people receive news and newspapers from mainstream news sites archives, libraries in Turkey and the nature of expected future services in these areas.

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