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HACETTEPE MEDICAL CENTER LIBRARY, ANKARA

Report on a visit made October 1967

by  
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Hacettepe Medical Center Library, Ankara (Director: Mr Ilhan Kum)

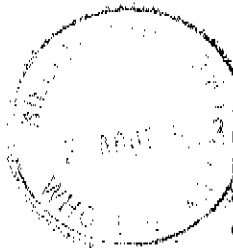
Like the Medical Center which it serves, the Hacettepe Library has undergone a dramatic transformation in its short life. It started six years ago as a collection on paediatrics, expanded into a general medical library in 1963 when the Center became the second medical faculty of Ankara University, and is now in the process of extending its collection to other branches of learning to serve the needs of the newly established Hacettepe University. Already it contains nearly 40 000 volumes (20 000 volumes of periodicals, 20 000 books), and 1200 periodicals, for the most part medical, are regularly received. But the next five years are likely to see the size of the collection doubled, perhaps even trebled, and, although its accommodation is attractive and was in the process of extension during my visit, the Library will soon be in urgent need of the new and separate building planned for 1971.

The staff consists of Mr Ilhan Kum, the Director of the Library, Miss Nilüfer Norman, Associate Director (who attended the EMRO Training Course in Medical Librarianship, Beirut, 1965), nine other professionally qualified librarians and 11 assistants. Mr Kum and Miss Norman have both received library training in the United States of America, and modern conceptions of librarianship prevail. The Library is attractively furnished, the wooden furniture and bookshelves being made on the premises, and is so designed that all the collection is freely available to readers. The loan policy is liberal to staff and students alike and, unusual in Turkish libraries, books and periodicals may be lent to other libraries. There is a photocopying service for readers, and literature required is borrowed in original or photocopied form from other libraries throughout the world, including the WHO Library, Geneva. A reference service supplies the answers to quick reference inquiries or may be responsible for the compilation of an extensive bibliography. The greater part of the collection, both of books and periodicals, is in English, and the important international bibliographical and reference sources are particularly well represented. The classification used is that of the National Library of Medicine, which has enabled the medical collection to fit comfortably into the Library of Congress scheme used for the general collection; and the cataloguing is based on the Library of Congress style, with subject headings taken from the list of Medical Subject Headings of the National Library of Medicine and translated into Turkish. A special committee of the Hacettepe Medical Center has been set up for this purpose, with Miss Norman as Secretary.

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Computer services are under study in the Center, and the installation of an IBM computer 360/40 is planned for 1969. The Hacettepe Library hopes that it may eventually be possible to establish links with the Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) of the National Library of Medicine. During the course of discussions with Mr Kum and Mr Örs, Director of the Hacettepe Data Processing Center, I was able to supply information on recent developments in the establishment of MEDLARS search centres, particularly through the OECD MEDLARS Working Group, and on progress in the preparation of a programme for the processing of MEDLARS magnetic tapes by an IBM 360/40 computer.

To summarize, the Hacettepe Medical Center Library is a modern, attractive Library, with an excellent collection serviced by an efficient and knowledgeable staff. It has to face a number of problems in the immediate future. Hitherto, its subject matter has virtually been limited to medicine, and its staff trained in medical librarianship. Its annual intake of new material, while large, has not been excessively so. But in the near future, its extension to cover additional subject areas is likely to be very wide, and the rate of its growth, particularly if AID assistance materializes, such as to make excessive demands on its staff. The greatest difficulty will undoubtedly be the recruitment of adequately trained library staff.