

## Introduction to Medical and Health Sciences Librarianship in Turkey

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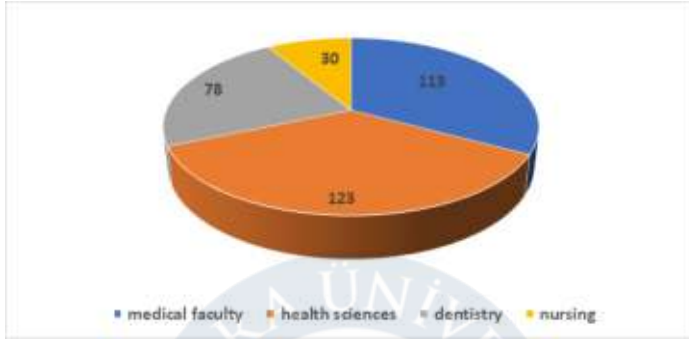
### Abstract

Medical and health sciences libraries have had to meet the needs of their users by obtaining up-to-date and evidence-based medical information and to renew their services in line with their changing information seeking behaviors and developing technology. These libraries have tried to meet the urgent information needs of clinicians and researchers in the virtual environment, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic in the world and in our country. In the next period, medical and health sciences libraries will continue to renew their services in the face of developments such as distance education, remote access, digital literacy, distance service, open science and open access. In addition, these libraries will strengthen their web-based information services by increasing their presence in social networking platforms.

Medical and health sciences librarianship in Turkey has generally developed in the form of medical libraries affiliated to universities and hospital libraries. The users of these libraries are physicians, general practitioners, students, academicians, residents, nurses, hospital staff, researchers, patients, patient relatives, pharmaceutical companies and people seeking information about health.

According to the Higher Education Information Management System 2020-2021 academic year data in Turkey (2021), there are 207 (3 passive) universities and 113 of these universities (2 international) medical faculties. According to a study conducted in 2018, it is known that %30 of these faculties have a medical library (Çolaklar, 2018, p.279). Again in Turkey, there are 123 health sciences, 78 dentistry and 30 nursing faculties at higher education level (Figure 1).

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**Figure1.** Health sciences and medical faculties in Turkey.

In this session, application examples from Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Bezmîâlem Vakıf University, Koç University and İzmir Tınaztepe Universities were discussed. At the same time, the studies of the University and Research Librarians Association (UNAK) Medicine and Health Sciences Platform on Covid-19, the effect of the pandemic on professional processes and the changes in library services in this process were included.

Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine is the place where Turkey's first medical education started. In addition, this university has old and important faculties in terms of other health sciences education: dentistry and nursing. Bezmîâlem Vakıf University, which is one of the new and dynamic universities in the field of medicine and health sciences in our country, has faculties of medicine, dentistry and health sciences. There are medical and nursing faculties at Koç University. There are faculties of medicine and health sciences in İzmir Tınaztepe University.

One of the oldest and largest medical libraries in Turkey is the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine Library. The first initiation of medical education in Fatih Darüşşifa, which was opened by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in 1470, is considered to be the birth of Istanbul Medical Faculty. This date also shows how old the library's roots are.

Turkish databases in the field of medicine and health sciences in our country are as follows: The first of these databases is the Turkish Medical Database created by ULAKBİM. Full text access is available since 1996. Today, articles are searched on TR Index. In this database, 1031 journals on medicine and health sciences are listed (TR Index, 2021). Turkey Citation Index (Turkey Citation Index, 2021) is a field and citation index for health sciences. 198346 articles from 523 medical and health sciences journals are being scanned. Turkish Medline, which started to be published on the internet in 2004, is a database containing scientific and periodical health sciences journals published in Turkey (Türk Medline, 2021). The Turkish Medline Literature Search service indexed 364 journals in the field of medicine

and health sciences. 67342 article abstracts and 88058 full text are accessible from this database (Turkish Medline Literature Review, 2012).

As can be seen, with the increase in the number of medical databases with Turkish content and the enrichment of their content, the registration, control and supervision of national publications in the field has facilitated access.

**Keywords:** Medical Librarianship, Health Sciences Librarianship, Turkey

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