

## Library awards in Turkey

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The Turkish Library Association awards librarians since 2008, taking into account criteria such as annual performance of the libraries, the relationship with readers, the increasing number of readers, the improvement of library services, equipment and facilities and the satisfaction of users.

Awarded were:

2008: The Cultural Centre and Public library in Ulus / Bartin

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Modern public library in the Ulus district, province of Bartin / Black Sea Region

The Cultural Centre in the Ulus district, province of Bartin is a modern building with the 5th cultural and art center. The county library received the prize for its modern building and for its performances of best public relations within Turkey.

The Culture and Art centre Ulus will receive this prize from the Minister for Tourism, Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, within the Library week from 31 March to 06 April 2008 which is celebrated with various activities. The prize giving ceremony for the Cultural Centre of Ulus takes place in the National Library in Ankara.

The County Library of Bartin is the only one with a website (<http://www.uluskutuphanesi.gov.tr>) in addition to about 9,000 books, magazines and newspapers for girls and women and an Internet room with 10 computers and play areas for small children.

The Cultural Centre of Ulus, where 3,000 people live, is visited annually by 13,000 people.

The county town of Ulus took advantage of a project, which was designed by the Ministry of  
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<http://www.goethe.de/synergasia>

Culture and Tourism for district towns and cities with 100,000 inhabitants, and so they received a modern library.

The library was built in the center of the county town and with its departments for children, adolescents and adults, with Internet Centre and other venues it has become a social meeting place where families and children can spend most of their spare time.

The library can be accessed from anywhere in the world. And families that are registered in the library and have a special password are able to see their children using the Internet.

In addition, the reader of the month was selected. Adult library members, who borrow most materials within a month, received a certificate of achievement and various gifts.

#### Public Library Çankırı, LIBRARY OF THE YEAR 2009

Mr. Yagmur Dursun, head of the library of the province Çankırı / Central Anatolia, received the price for the Library of the year at the opening ceremony of the 45th Library Week. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Culture, Mr Ertuğrul Günay, the Director General of Libraries and Publications, Mr. Dr. Aytekin Yılmaz and the chairman of the Turkish Library Association, Ali Fuat Özkan,

<http://www.cankirikutup.gov.tr/>

#### Public Library Eskişehir / Central Anatolia - Library of the Year 2010

The Provincial Library has been awarded as “Library of the Year 2010” by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the library association.

Mr. Mehmet Akkaya, head of the provincial library, said that for "the prize of the library with the best public relations". The annual work of all libraries in Turkey has been considered by the library association, taking into account the following aspects: "the relationship with the reader, the rise in readership, improvement of library services, equipment and user satisfaction".

He pointed out that the provincial library has been elected because it offered best value to the reader. "This is a question of teamwork. I congratulate all my fellow colleagues who have contributed to this. We have a total of 18 employees. In recent years, the number of our readers increased annually by more than 50%. Last year we had an increase of about 65%. Our library is one of the most important herewith. This is not only an institutional landmark, but every year the interest of the inhabitants of Eskişehir in books increases as well. There is a theory that says that the spread of the Internet, reading is decreasing. In Eskişehir it is just the other way around. Particularly adult women are reading more. During 2008 the number of readers still was 155 000, it increased last year to 225 181 and the number of borrowed books from 90,000 to 128,000. "

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