



DOI: 10.53474/ad.1493370

THE STORY OF ÇELİK GÜLERSOY AND ISTANBUL LIBRARY^{1*}

Deniz ELDENİZ

Marmara Üniversitesi, İnsan ve Toplum Bilimleri Fakültesi,
Bilgi ve Belge Yönetimi Bölümü Doktora Öğrencisi

denizeldeniz@marun.edu.tr

<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-6104-6204>

Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Varol SAYDAM

Marmara Üniversitesi, İnsan ve Toplum Bilimleri Fakültesi,
Bilgi ve Belge Yönetimi Bölümü

varol.saydam@marmara.edu.tr

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3841-3751>

ABSTRACT

In the study, the establishment of the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library, a specialized library on Istanbul, and the activities of the library, which still continues its activities today, will be examined within the framework of five basic elements of librarianship. Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library has a unique location in that it is a specialized library on Istanbul, consists of Çelik Gülersoy's personal collection collected throughout his life, and is located in a building restored within the framework of Gülersoy's dream. In the literature review, no study was found in the field of Information and Document Management regarding the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library. Document analysis method was used as the methodology. As a result of the study, it was determined that the library has important qualities such as being a specialized library, containing resources about Istanbul in different languages, its central location, and its historical building. In addition, issues that need improvement have been identified, such as currently providing service two days a week and not having an online accessible catalog.

Keywords: Istanbul Library, Çelik Gülersoy, Personal Library, Research Library, Private Archive.

ÖZ

Çalışmada İstanbul konulu bir ihtisas kütüphanesi olan Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı İstanbul Kitaplığının kuruluşu ve günümüzde hala faaliyetine devam eden kütüphanenin faaliyetleri kütüphaneciliğin beş temel unsuru çerçevesinde incelenecektir. Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı İstanbul Kitaplığı İstanbul konulu ihtisas kütüphanesi olması, Çelik Gülersoy'un yaşamı boyunca topladığı kişisel koleksiyonundan oluşması ve Gülersoy'un hayali çerçevesinde restore edilen bir bina içinde yer alması bakımından özgün bir konuma sahiptir. Yapılan literatür taramasında Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı İstanbul Kitaplığına dair Bilgi ve Belge Yönetimi alanında yapılan bir çalışmaya rastlanmamıştır. Metodoloji olarak doküman analizi yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Çalışma sonucunda kitaplığın, ihtisas kütüphanesi olması farklı dillerde İstanbul ile ilgili kaynakları barındırması, merkezi konumu, tarihi binası, gibi önemli nitelikleri olmasının yanında şu an için haftada iki gün hizmet vermesi ve çevrim içi erişilebilir bir kataloğunun olmaması gibi geliştirilmesi gereken hususlar tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İstanbul Kitaplığı, Çelik Gülersoy, Özel Kütüphane, Araştırma Kütüphanesi, Özel Arşiv.

^{1*} This study was completed in 2023 and within the scope of the project numbered SYL-2022-10859 carried out by Marmara University Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit, the master's thesis titled "İstanbul İçin Bir Kütüphane Hayal Etmek ve Kurmak:İstanbul Kitaplığı" was published.

INTRODUCTION

Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library is a specialized library on Istanbul. Specialized libraries differ from public and university libraries in that they operate on the collection, organization and dissemination of information on a particular subject. The main mission of these libraries is to provide special resources, in-depth research materials and expert assistance to meet the information needs of researchers in their fields of expertise. In contrast to public libraries, which provide to a broad range of interests and users, special libraries serve the unique needs of a target audience determined by their areas of expertise.

Gülersoy, with his works on Istanbul, which he wrote and published under the name of Istanbul Library, produced information on the subject of research of the library, which is one of the duties of a specialized library, and presented it to the user. Istanbul Library hosts the Istanbul collection that Gülersoy created by collecting postcards, engravings, maps, periodicals and books, and is located in a building that was restored to reflect the 19th century Ottoman house.

The books, articles and various publications written by Gülersoy about the various historical structures and cultural history of Istanbul are among the resources specifically offered to users who want to do research on Istanbul. The point that distinguishes this collection and library from other Istanbul-themed libraries and collections is that it reflects Istanbul through Gülersoy's eyes, thus blending it with the effects of Gülersoy's life, his cultural background and his inner world. Istanbul Library has unique features in that it was created in line with Çelik Gülersoy's individual efforts and personal vision.

The period in which Gülersoy lived coincides with a time when the face of Istanbul began to change rapidly and urbanization accelerated. It is possible to observe the feeling of nostalgia in Gülersoy's works, who yearns for the Istanbul of his childhood, in his books, articles, and articles published in newspapers and magazines. Gülersoy was in favor of preserving the roots of Istanbul, which hosted three empires, and preserving and continuing its historical texture and culture. In his works, he documented in detail the neighborhoods, residents, tradesmen, bookstores, greengrocers, trams and landscapes of Istanbul, where he lived since his childhood.

In addition, Gülersoy has prepared monographs containing his research on the famous historical buildings of Istanbul. The fact that he grew up in a rich cultural environment where there were diplomats, literary figures and urbanist figures such as the famous diplomat Reşit Saffet Atabinen, the founder of the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association, Said M. Duhani, Abdülhak Şinasi Hisar and Henri Prost, was also effective in shaping the style adopted in Gülersoy's works (Işın, 1994). Gülersoy made efforts to preserve the historical texture of these historical buildings and to carry their cultural history to the future. In his works, Gülersoy aimed to include previously unpublished information about Istanbul and Turkish history in domestic and foreign sources, to bring this information together and to present it to the reader by collecting and arranging visual materials such as engravings from books, archives and museums. He founded a publishing house called "Istanbul Library" to present his works to readers (Gülersoy, 1971).

The focus of Gülersoy's idea of the Istanbul Library is the transferring of information such as foreign works on Istanbul brought to Turkey, foreigners' memories of Istanbul, their observations and evaluations about this city, into Turkish. For this purpose, he presented to the reader the Turkish translations of the life stories and works of foreign authors who wrote works about Istanbul in his monograph works collected under the name of "Istanbul Library", which he first started publishing

in 1971. With his restoration and historical research works, Gülersoy aimed to regain the identity of Istanbul, which was rapidly lost after the 1950s. Through the Istanbul Library, Gülersoy wanted the people living in Istanbul to be included in the history of the city, to protect the identity and history of the city they live in, and to be a part of the development process of this historical city memory. Istanbul Library has an important place in urban memory studies in terms of allowing people living in Istanbul to recognize their urban identities and history of city.

Materials and Methods

This study has been prepared to reveal the emergence of Çelik Gülersoy's dream of the Istanbul Library and the time period from the process of establishing the library to the present day. The materials used in this study largely consist of printed sources in the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library. Document analysis and one-on-one interview methods, which are qualitative research methods, were used as methodology in the study. Document analysis is a qualitative research method used to meticulously and systematically analyze the content of documents, both print and electronic materials. Similar to other methods used in qualitative research, document analysis requires examining and interpreting data in order to derive meaning, create an understanding of the relevant topic, and develop knowledge. (Kıral, 2020, pp. 173)

In this context, the newspapers and magazines' articles, books and private archives written by Çelik Gülersoy were surveyed. In this context, ephemera such as newspaper news, newspaper articles, interviews, magazine articles, travel notes, and business cards included in the Çelik Gülersoy private archive in Istanbul Library; the book series published by Gülersoy under the name of Istanbul Library, the forewords, footnotes and book chapters written by Gülersoy were collected, inquired and analysed. It was aimed to find information about the Istanbul Library of Gülersoy's dream in the sources surveyed.

1. Istanbul Library

In this study, the emergence of Istanbul Library will be assessed in three stages. Firstly, the events and the people who were influential in Gülersoy's creation of the Istanbul Library, the process of collecting the Library's collection, and publishing a book series that mentions the name Istanbul Library for the first time will be inquired. The period between Gülersoy's restoration of Soğukçeşme Street and the Istanbul Library building and placing his book collection in this building in 1986 and the opening of the Library to the public in 1990 will be surveyed. Finally, the process from the opening of the Istanbul Library to the public until the present will be discussed. In addition, the Istanbul Library will be evaluated in terms of the five basic elements of a library; building, budget, collection, users and staff.

Çelik Gülersoy stated that he spent every age and period of his life interacting with Istanbul. However, Gülersoy not only lived in Istanbul, but also studied about Istanbul. Gülersoy told in one of his works that he spent the period between the ages of 10 and 16 collecting and reading adventure novels from the bookstores on Ankara Hill in Beşiktaş which are translated from French. The high school was "the beginning of his serious readings" in his own words, for Gülersoy. During this period, Gülersoy bought a glass cabinet, which would become his first bookshelf, on the wall of his house in Yıldız (Gülersoy, 1989, p. 87). He described the end of the 1940s, when he started high school, as a productive period for the world of literature. The Ministry of Education started to publish Turkish translations of works from world literature for the first time. Gülersoy explained that it was

a great pleasure for him to be able to buy these books from the sales point of the Ministry of Education on Babiali Hill since 1946.

An important period in Gülersoy's life began with his entry into the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association. Reşit Saffet Atabinen, who lived in the large mansion next to the house where they lived, invited Gülersoy to the association in September 1947. Shortly after joining the association, his first job was to establish a library for the association. Reşit Saffet Atabinen, the president of the association, was passionate about the works of Ottoman architecture in Istanbul.

While Gülersoy continuing his work at the association, he also collected photographs and books about Istanbul (Gülersoy, 1978, p. 66). Gülersoy stated that he read books for hours in Atabinen's library in the mansion after returning from work. Gülersoy, who continued his education at Istanbul University Faculty of Law, said that Atabinen's library was "a separate university" for him (Gülersoy, 1989, p. 114).

In the foreword he wrote for the book "Bir Zamanlar İstanbul [Once Upon a Time in Istanbul]", Gülersoy explained that he started to create the Istanbul Library and establish a city archive in the 1950s. Gülersoy stated that he started to create the collection by collecting old postcards because they were the source that best reflected the old scenes of Istanbul (Gülersoy, 1996, p. 1-2).

Since the end of the 1960s, Gülersoy stated that he devoted his time only to reading memoirs, studies and works that describe, examine and analyze Istanbul (Gülersoy, 1990, p. 8). While working part time at the association during his time as a lawyer, he attended a Traffic Law Congress held in Perugia, Italy, on behalf of the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association in 1961. His trip to Italy in 1961 was followed by trips to Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands and England. Gülersoy wrote his thoughts and memories about his European trips in his book "Batiya Doğru [Towards The West]" (Gülersoy, 1987).

Gülersoy stated that he started writing tourism studies based on Western sources during this period. Gülersoy consolidated the information he had previously learned from books in the 1950s during his travels to western countries between 1960 and 1970. In the 1960s, Gülersoy collected works on Istanbul from home and abroad, which would later become the Istanbul Library he founded. Gülersoy stated that he observed that in the bookstores he visited during his trips abroad, there was always a book about the city where that bookstore was located. In the following years, Gülersoy published an Istanbul guidebook (Gülersoy, 1967) and research books on Istanbul (Gülersoy, 1971), in addition to collecting works on Istanbul. Çelik Gülersoy published a series of monographs, five books in total, between 1971 and 1984. These publications, published under the name of the Istanbul Library monograph series, include the biographies of famous European authors who wrote works about Istanbul, prepared by Gülersoy, and the Turkish translations of the works prepared by experts in the field. The first book is Alphonse de Lamartine and Istanbul Writings (1971), the second book is Theophile Gautier's Istanbul (1972), the third book is Lady Montagu's Letters from Turkey (1973), the fourth book is Gerard de Nerval's Journey to the East (1974), the fifth book is M. von Tietz's Turkey 1833 (1982).

In an interview he gave in 1986, Gülersoy explained that collecting books about Istanbul was a passion for him (Gülersoy, 1986, p. 56). Gülersoy stated that the achievement that made him happiest among the awards and works he received was establishing his dream library. He emphasized that being able to establish the Istanbul Library gave him a special happiness (Gülersoy, 1989, p. 225). Gülersoy stated that it has always been his dream to present a library to the country and the world.

Gülersoy stated that his bookcase, which he started to create in 1947 when he started working at the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association, and which filled two shelves in the glass cabinet that he fixed to the wall of their house at the time, grew over time and reached a size that attracted the world's attention on Soğukçeşme Street, and that he was very happy to be able to place his books there with his own hands.

Gülersoy affiliated the Istanbul Library with the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation, which bears his name, in 1981. Gülersoy stated that he placed his book collection at home, his most valuable asset, in a building he built on Soğukçeşme Street with his own hands, and presented this library to the nation and the world. He stated that in his youth he witnessed many famous libraries disappear after the death of their owners. He mentioned that among these people, he saved only the former president of the Turkish Touring and Automobile Association, Reşit Saffet Atabinen, by bringing his library to the institution. Gülersoy explained that he found it beneficial to place his most valuable book collection, with his own hands, and that he left his library, which had been a part of his life at home for years, to establish the Istanbul Library. The land on which the Istanbul Library is located was allocated by the association.

Gülersoy had the library building built with the donations he collected. Gülersoy emphasized that the main reason why he chose Soğukçeşme Street, which was restored by the association, where the Istanbul Library building is located, was the strategic location of the street (Gülersoy, 1989, p. 15). Gülersoy stated that the street is a complete synthesis of the Ottoman and Roman cisterns, combining both modern tourisms. The library building has two floors. On the ground floor, there are The Writers of Istanbul section, the Reader Hall, the Director Room and the Management Room. On the upper floor there is the Conference Hall and Çelik Gülersoy's personal study room. The architecture of the Istanbul Library and the items used in the building are also important in terms of reflecting the 19th century Istanbul. He stated that he designed the decoration approach while furnishing the library according to his dreams (Akif, 1986).

One of the defining characteristics of a special library is its specialist clientele. Differs from public and university libraries, which serve a wide range of individuals with different interests and needs, special libraries cater to a specific group of users who share a common interest or field of study (LIS Educational Network, 2023). Specialized libraries are libraries that help specialize in a particular subject. They also support the services they provide to researchers with resources on their expertise. Specialized libraries have their own unique collections. The collection is shaped by the research needs of the users they serve. Gülersoy stated that the Istanbul Library was established to be at the service of researchers, but that people other than researchers would not benefit from the collection. However, for visitors who want to visit the Library, introductory tours can be made within the Library. Due to the closed shelving system used in the library and the special cataloguing system used by Gülersoy, users are required to get help from the librarian to use the books and materials. In the classification, a special system has been applied to each work by assigning a special number to each section begins with 1, so that it can only be found by adding the last numbers reached by these separate sections, and this is intended to make it easy to find a sought-after work. Gülersoy stated in the text of the "Istanbul Library Usage and Working Regulation" that the use of the Istanbul Library is intended for a user group who wants to specialize in Istanbul and conduct academic research (İstanbul Kitaplığı, 2024; Eldeniz, 2023, pp. 56-57).

2. Evaluation According to Five Elements of the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library

In order for libraries to meet user needs and expectations accurately, completely and at the highest level and to provide their services effectively, the five elements at the core of the library must be brought together appropriately (Saydam & Sağlık, 2015, p. 63). In this part of the study, the current status of the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library will be discussed within the framework of the five elements of librarianship.

2.1. Building

Library buildings are an important element that affects the library habits of users (Saydam & Sağlık, 2015, p. 63). Soğukçeşme Street, where the Istanbul Library and historical tourist buildings are located, was restored by Çelik Gülersoy. Since it is in a historically important location with its historical building and historical street, the library is frequently visited by both researchers and people coming to the region.

The library building has two floors. On the ground floor, The Writers of Istanbul, Reader Hall, Director Room and the Management Room is located. On the upper floor Conference Hall and Çelik Gülersoy's Study room is located. In terms of the architecture and structure of the Istanbul Library, the objects used in the building are also important as they reflect the 19th century Istanbul.

In the The Writers of Istanbul section on the ground floor, there are photographs of Turkish and foreign writers who wrote about Istanbul. The Reader's Lounge, also located on the ground floor, has sections for literature, urbanism and periodicals. Incoming researchers and readers can use this room.

Another room on the ground floor is the Management Room . The archive of the library is located in this room. The archive consists of materials acquired by Çelik Gülersoy from different places throughout his lifetime. The visual material, which is largely related to Istanbul, consists of groups produced in different techniques. The material has been categorised by Çelik Gülersoy according to the topography of Istanbul and its institutions (İstanbul Kitaplığı, 2024).

The halls on the upper floor are used as conference and concert halls, and other parts of the library are also located here. The sections on this floor are: Roman and Byzantine, Ottoman history, Istanbul studies, travelogues, embassies, memoirs, fine arts, biographies, general books on Turkey, Istanbul guides, engraving and photo albums, reference books. There is also a grand piano in the hall, which will offer classical Western music to the people of Istanbul. Gülersoy said about classical Western music: 'I consider this immortal and universal music as an integral part of the book.' (İstanbul Kitaplığı, 2024 ; Eldeniz, 2023, p. 52).

Also on the upper floor, Gülersoy's personal study room contains his family photographs, his mother, father, siblings, seventeen photographs, awards, plaques, documents, old maps of Istanbul, letters of thanks, and certificates (Eldeniz, 2023, p. 53).

Although the library building is a historical building in a historical location, it has some problems. It is known that there is a moisture problem, albeit partially, and this problem can be considered a threat to the collection. However, this problem can be minimized with the help of dehumidifying devices. In addition, since it is a historical building, it is not possible to make any unauthorized or non-original arrangements in the building.

2.2. Collection

The collection consists of Çelik Gülersoy's personal collection. In the classification of the library, a special classification system different from the world systems was preferred. In an interview, Gülersoy stated that the capacity of the Istanbul Library was sufficient to hold 50.000 books. He added that the library had 4.000 books in 1986. The graph below shows the total number of books in the Istanbul Library.

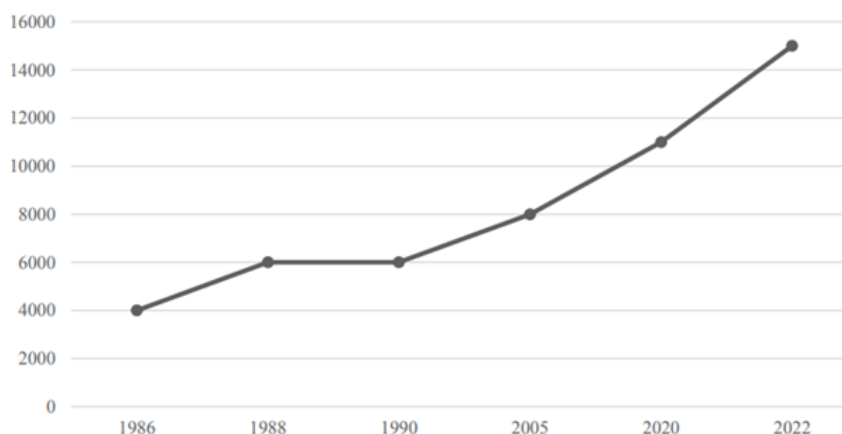


Figure 1. Total Number of Books in Istanbul Library By Years.

Source: (Göz – The Deep Memory, 2020; Gülersoy, 1986; Istanbul Library Catalogue, 1988; Istanbul Library Catalogue, 2005)

The total number of books in the library was 4.000 in 1986, 6.000 in 1988 and 1990, 8.000 in 2005, 11.000 in 2020 and 15.000 in 2022. The book collection consists of thirteen different topics. Each subject heading consists of books about Istanbul. These subject headings are respectively Roman and Byzantine, Ottoman History, Istanbul Studies, Travelogues, Embassies, Memoirs, Biography, Fine Arts, Turkish Literature and Foreign Literature, Urban Planning and Municipal Problems, Institutions, General Books on Turkey, Turkey Guides, Istanbul Guides, Reference.

The non-book material in the library catalogue of Istanbul Library collection consists of albums, periodicals and maps. In addition to albums, periodicals and maps, there is a photographic archive that is not registered in the catalogues of the Istanbul Library, but is stored in folders named according to districts in a sorted manner. This visual archive includes engravings, early photographs of the city, coloured and colourless postcards, and photographs of Istanbul after the 1870s. The collection is topographically classified according to the districts of Istanbul.

Although the imprint information of periodicals, maps and plans is available on the library's website, it is not possible to access the books and visual archive online. Since the library is open on certain days, having all resources available online will increase the use of the library and user satisfaction.

2.3. User

For libraries, the lack of one of the five basic elements affects the layout of the entire library. User and library nourish each other. It is important for these two elements to be in balance. The library should be able to meet user expectations, and users should be able to benefit from the services and resources offered by the library at the highest level.

Gülersoy stated that the Istanbul Library was established for the service of researchers, but that people other than researchers would not benefit from the collection. He explained the reason for this as follows: "No. Because if we open it to students looking for a place to study in winter, real researchers will not be able to find a place to sit. However, those who wish to read about Istanbul will be admitted after their applications are examined." However, for visitors who wish to visit the Library, introductory information is provided inside the Library.

Istanbul Library has been serving experts from different disciplines, students, researchers, restoration projects and restoration applications who have been doing research on Istanbul in the same location for 33 years (İstanbul Kitaplığı, 2024). The fact that the library is a specialized library means that its user profile consists of people who work in this field. In this direction, literature, art history, history, sociology, language, etc. Many users from various fields benefit from the library.

Although it is a specialized library, the user profile of the library is quite wide since it specializes on a wide range of subjects on Istanbul. For this reason, it can provide resources for research in many different fields based on Istanbul. In order for the library to fully meet user expectations and needs, it is important to increase working days and prioritize online access.

2.4. Staff

Since its foundation, the librarians of the Istanbul Library have often worked solo. In the Istanbul Library, librarians were responsible for recording and shelving books, recording and sorting petitions received, airing and dusting the library, introducing the Library to visitors, assisting researchers in finding books or non-book materials, etc. has a number of duties.

The first librarian of the Istanbul Library was Bülent Ağaoğlu, who worked there in 1986-1987. Deniz Yalav followed him in 1988. Yalav, who is also a member of the board of directors of the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation, prepared the 1988 and 2005 catalogues of the Istanbul Library. Since 1990 Until 2022, Neslihan Yalav worked as the librarian of the Library.

The fact that the library has been managed by a librarian since its establishment is a situation that affects both the librarian and the users in today's conditions. However, the foundation's limited resources and income may prevent it from employing more staff. Therefore, in order for the elements we mentioned to be in balance, it is necessary to create a system that can run the library for five full days with at least two librarians by producing a resource.

2.5. Budget

Çelik Gülersoy established a foundation bearing his name on 07.07.1981. As the first works of this charitable initiative, he published a series of publications on aesthetics, architecture and history of Istanbul and created the 'Istanbul Library' in Sultanahmet Soğukçeşme Street as his first major work. Gülersoy bequeathed all his assets to the Foundation with a notary deed issued in 1985. The financial expenses and operation of the Foundation are funded by volunteers, donors and the Foundation's income.

Being a foundation, its limited budget and income prevents the library from showing its full potential. For this reason, new resources, additional income, collaborations with different institutions and a more effective relationship with donors should be established, and the library should be made effective and efficient.

CONCLUSION

Çelik Gülersoy has made great contributions to Istanbul's cultural assets, cultural history and historical buildings. He stated that the work he is most proud of among his works is the Istanbul Library. Istanbul Library is one of the rare examples in our history of librarianship. Istanbul Library, a specialized library on Istanbul, also has features from different types of libraries. Although it has the functions of a specialized library, the Istanbul Library, which is organized according to Gülersoy's personal cataloguing and sorting system, can also be considered a personal library. Istanbul Library, which is also a foundation library, belongs to the Çelik Gülersoy Foundation. On the other hand, the Library contains pieces belonging to Gülersoy, with its visual materials and decoration reflecting the characteristics of the 19th century classical Ottoman house.

Istanbul Library, which hosts Gülersoy's personal collection of books and archives on Istanbul that he collected over forty years, has provided a valuable resource for researchers on old Istanbul. Gülersoy's Istanbul archive, which he started by collecting postcards from old Istanbul in the 1950s, increased with the engravings and books he collected from various second-hand booksellers, bookstores, museums and auctions during his European travels in the 1960s. In the 1970s, it continued with publishing Turkish translations of foreign authors' works about Istanbul, which it published under the name Istanbul Library. With the completion of the restoration of Soğukçeşme Street and the Library building in 1986, Gülersoy brought his personal book and archive collection from his home to the Istanbul Library building. The library is arranged according to the shape of Gülersoy's dream library.

All features of the Library, such as the subject headings of the Library, cataloguing and sorting system, library sections, and the interior decoration of the building, belong to Gülersoy. Gülersoy often talked about the importance he gave to the cultural history of Istanbul in his works. It can be observed that the theme of nostalgia is dominant in the works written by Gülersoy and in the collection of the Library. Gülersoy aimed to write and document the history and historical development of the city of Istanbul, as well as to record and document his memories of his own life. For this reason, he published books and articles in which he wrote his memories and observations of the Istanbul of his childhood. Likewise, there is a section in the Library that he attributes to his own life. In this section called Çelik Gülersoy Room, there are Gülersoy's childhood photographs, family photographs, awards and plaques he received, certificates, photos of his European travels, his own desk and items from his home after his death.

Istanbul Library is a special-themed research library that still serves the needs of users by expanding its collection with current publications without disrupting its traditional structure. The library's unique Istanbul-themed photo archive and engraving collection is still used as an important reference source for researchers. It can be said that Gülersoy aims to internalize the city of Istanbul and its history in his works and include his own life story in this subject. Gülersoy made protecting Istanbul his personal matter. His love for Istanbul has become an inseparable part of Çelik Gülersoy.

As a result of the research, Çelik Gülersoy's Istanbul Library, with its variety of materials, is a special subject library and city archive that is unique in Turkey, established by one person and based on one person's dream of Istanbul, according to a special classification system, as well as being a special library and city archive of its founder. It has made a great contribution to Turkish librarianship by carrying pieces about his life and vision, the book series that conveys the cultural history of Istanbul from the eyes of foreigners, which Gülersoy published by translating foreign sources on Istanbul into

our language, and by hosting works introducing the historical structures of Istanbul, which Gülersoy first pioneered.

Istanbul Library is easily accessible due to its central location, has resources on Istanbul in different languages and contents, and has attractive features due to its historical building. However, it should not be ignored that the fact that the library is open to researchers and visitors two days a week, the lack of an online library catalogue and automation system are the most important issues that need to be solved today.

The balanced management of the five basic elements of the library will ensure that the library can make its resources accessible to its users, provide a solution to users' search for different resources, and increase the awareness of the library. In this context, the Istanbul Library, which is examined in terms of five basic elements, must first solve its budget needs. When we look at other priority needs (personnel, software) required to improve the activities of the library, it is seen that a regular budget is basically necessary. Regular donations, collaborations, sponsor supports, etc. Creating a regular budget, even if limited to studies, would be a good start. After the regular budget, necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the library can work at least five full days, and at least two employees graduated from the field of librarianship should be employed.

Once the regular budget, working time and personnel needs are met, a software that can provide online access must be provided to meet the needs of not only users in or coming to Istanbul but also users outside the country's borders. This software may be open-source software that can bring all the resources of the library together. Collaborations, meetings and events can be organized to collect more resources about Istanbul. Whatever is necessary should be done to make the Istanbul Library, which is a special library in every respect, more known and visible.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethics Committee Permission: Ethics committee approval was received for his study from the Marmara University Institute of Turkic Studies Ethical Committee with the document dated 03.07.2023 and numbered 570470.

Authors Contribution Rate Statement: The authors declare that they have contributed equally to the article.

REFERENCES

- Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı İstanbul Kitaplığı. (2024). *İstanbul Kitaplığı [Istanbul Library]*. Retrieved 12.06.2024 from <https://istanbulkitapligi.org.tr/>.
- Çelik Gülersoy's Business Card with the Inscription: Turkish Touring and Automobile Association Librarian*. Basında Çelik Gülersoy [Çelik Gülersoy In The Press]. (1956). ADAC. Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library Archive.
- Eldeniz, D. (2023). *Imagining And Building A Library For Istanbul: Istanbul Library* [Unpublished Master's thesis] Marmara University.
- Göz Dergisi. (2020). Şehrin Derin Hafızası: İstanbul Kitaplığı [The Deep Memory of the City: Istanbul Library]. Retrieved 25.06.2024 from <https://gozdergisi.com/2020/10/16/sehrin-derin-hafizasi-istanbul-kitapligi/>
- Gülersoy, (1981). İstanbul Kitaplığı [Istanbul Library]. *Gezinti*, pp. 9-10, Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library Archive.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1967). *A guide to Istanbul* (B. Unsworth, Trans.). Istanbul Library.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1971). *Alphonse de Lamartine ve İstanbul Yazıları* [Alphonse de Lamartine and Istanbul Writings], (N. Berk, Trans.), İstanbul Kitaplığı.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1978). Eski fotoğrafları saklar mısınız [Do you keep old photographs], *Yıllarboyu*, (1), p. 66.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1981). *Çelik Gülersoy İle Bir Söyleşi* [An Interview With Çelik Gülersoy], *Varlık*.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1986). *A Work Of Distinction in Istanbul, ICOC*, (18), p. 56.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1986, October 1). İstanbul Kitaplığı ilkler arasında [Istanbul Library is among the firsts], (Akif, M, Interviewer). *Cumhuriyet*. Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library Archive.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1987). *Batiya Doğru* [Towards The West]. İstanbul Kitaplığı.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1989). *Kırk Yıl Olmuş* [It's Been Forty Years]. İstanbul Kitaplığı.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1989). *Soğukçeşme Sokağı* [Soğukçeşme Street]. Türkiye Turing ve Otomobil Kurumu, p. 15.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1990). *Nasıl Bir İstanbul* [What Kind of Istanbul]. Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı İstanbul Kütüphanesi, p. 8.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1994). İstanbul Kitaplığı [Istanbul Library], *Dünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*, 4, p.229.
- Gülersoy, Ç. (1996). Kartpostallarda Neler Var Neler Yok [What's Included and What's Not on Postcards], as cited in *Bir Zamanlar İstanbul [Once Upon a Time in Istanbul]*, pp. 1-2. İdea İletişim.
- Işın, E. (1994). Gülersoy, Çelik, *Dünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi [Istanbul Encyclopedia from Past to Present]*, 3, pp. 436-437.
- İstanbul Kitaplığı Katalog* [Istanbul Library Catalogue], Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı, 1988.
- İstanbul Kitaplığı Katalog* [Istanbul Library Catalogue], Çelik Gülersoy Vakfı, 2005.

- Istanbul Library Opening Invitation.* (1990). Çelik Gülersoy Foundation Istanbul Library Archive.
- Kıral, B. (2020). Nitel Bir Veri Analizi Yöntemi Olarak Doküman Analizi [Document Analysis as a Qualitative Data Analysis Method], *Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi*, (15), pp. 170-189.
- LIS Educational Network. (2023). *Special Library*. Retrieved 25.06.2024 from <https://www.lisedunetwork.com/special-library/>.
- Saydam V., Sağlık, Ö. (2015). İstanbul'daki Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı'na bağlı halk ve çocuk kütüphanelerinin iç ve dış mekân açısından incelenmesi [Examination of public and children's libraries affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Istanbul in terms of interior and exterior spaces.]. *Milli Eğitim*, 45(208), pp. 61-75.