



SUITABILITY OF CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC LIBRARY SPACES TO USER NEEDS AND PURPOSES: A CASE STUDY OF ERZURUM

ÇAĞDAŞ HALK KÜTÜPHANESİ MEKANLARININ KULLANICI İHTİYAÇ VE AMAÇLARINA UYGUNLUĞU: ERZURUM ÖRNEĞİ

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Abstract

The library is a societal institution that hosts printed and electronic information sources and facilitates access to these resources when needed. Public libraries serve as places where individuals, regardless of age and level, can benefit from library services that are free of charge, can borrow and read books, and can serve as venues for various social, cultural activities such as conferences and exhibitions. In this regard, why public libraries are preferred by users has been a subject of curiosity. The aim of study was to determine the current purpose of using public libraries by identifying the purpose of using such libraries. In this context, the Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and the Kazim Karabekir Public Library in the Yakutiye district of Erzurum were selected as the study areas. A face-to-face survey was conducted with a total of 110 library users in two libraries, and 100 surveys were evaluated. The survey form was prepared with multiple-choice and Likert scale questions. The data obtained from the survey were analysed using the SPSS 23 program. The frequency, percentage distribution, and arithmetic mean were used to evaluate the data. In light of the obtained data, the relationship between the areas occupied by library sections within the building and the purposes of use by the public was analysed. As a result of the evaluation, recommendations were made on which areas of the library should be developed and in which areas the public should be directed more based on the needs of the users.

Keywords: Library, Public Library, Erzurum, User Needs.

Öz

Kütüphane, basılı ve elektronik bilgi kaynaklarına ev sahipliği yapan ve gerektiğinde bu kaynaklardan yararlanılmasını sağlayan toplumsal bir kurumdur. Halk kütüphaneleri, insanların yaş ve seviyeleri fark etmeksizin kütüphane hizmetlerinden ücretsiz yararlandığı, kitapların okunup ödünç alındığı yerler olmasının yanında konferans ve sergi gibi farklı sosyal, kültürel etkinliklerin de düzenlendiği yerlerdir. Bu anlamda halk kütüphanelerinin kullanıcılar tarafından neden tercih edildiği merak konusu olmuştur. Çalışmanın amacı günümüzde halk kütüphanelerinin kullanım amaçlarını tespit ederek kütüphanelerin mevcut durumlarının kullanım amaçlarına uygunluğunun belirlenmesidir. Bu kapsamda Erzurum'un Yakutiye ilçesinde bulunan "Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer İl Halk Kütüphanesi" ve "Kazım Karabekir Halk Kütüphanesi" çalışma alanı olarak belirlenmiştir. İki kütüphanede toplam 110 kütüphane kullanıcısı ile yüz yüze anket çalışması yapılmış olup 100 anket değerlendirmeye alınmıştır. Anket formu çoktan seçmeli ve likert ölçekli sorularla hazırlanmıştır. Anket sonucunda ulaşılan veriler SPSS 23 programı ile değerlendirilmiştir. Veriler değerlendirilirken frekans, yüzdelik dağılım ve aritmetik ortalama değerleri kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen veriler doğrultusunda kütüphane bölümlerinin bina içerisinde kapladıkları alan ve halkın kullanım amaçları arasındaki ilişki analiz edilmiştir. Yapılan değerlendirme sonucunda kütüphane bölümlerinin halk kütüphanesi içerisinde geliştirilmesi gerektiği ve halkın hangi alanlarda kütüphaneye daha fazla yönlendirilmesi gerektiği üzerine öneriler sunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kütüphane, Halk Kütüphanesi, Erzurum, Kullanıcı İhtiyaçları



INTRODUCTION

The library is defined by the Turkish Language Association (TDK, 2005, p. 1288) as an institution that collects, organizes, and provides access to various forms of intellectual and artistic products such as books, films, and records for interested readers. Hasol (2010, p. 294) defines a library as a bookcase. A bookcase, in turn, is defined as a room or building dedicated to reading books, also known as a library: a public library or a university library (Hasol, 2010, p. 271). According to Baysal (1991, p. 7), a library is an institution where written, printed, visual, auditory, and linear publications of all kinds are collected for the benefit of a specific and limited community or for everyone, organized, and made available to others through appropriate tools and methods to create a suitable utilization environment.

The library has three main functions: collection (acquisition), organization, and provision of use. Libraries generally serve as carriers of human knowledge and thoughts, representing products created by humans. Throughout history, various sources, such as clay tablets, manuscripts, contemporary books, periodicals, photographs, records, maps, plans, and similar resources, have been of interest to libraries. These collected carriers are stored so that they can be easily found when needed, placed on shelves, and organized by preparing various catalysts. From bound catalogues used in the past to card catalogues, computer records are currently used. Libraries can serve a limited target audience, such as university students and faculty members, workplace researchers, or club members, or they can be open to readers from all walks of life, such as public libraries (Baysal, 1991, pp. 8-9).

Public libraries aim to contribute to the cultural, social, and technical development of regions by allowing every reader, regardless of gender, age, level, or profession, to freely benefit from works of thought and art on every subject (Baysal, 1991, p. 13). The goals of public libraries in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto include contributing to universal education; helping to evaluate humanity's achievements in culture and science; being a source where records of human thoughts and ideas and products of creative imagination are freely available to everyone; providing books and other communication tools for relaxation and entertainment; assisting students; and preparing and presenting technical, scientific, and sociological current information (UNESCO, 1972, as cited in International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions-IFLAA, 1987, p. 11). In summary, the main purpose of public libraries is to provide services and resources in various environments to meet the personal development, education, and knowledge needs of individuals and groups while also making use of leisure time (IFLAB, 2004, p. 22).

“Historically, the first libraries were found in mosques, madrasahs, and tekkes (Alikılıç, 2002, p. 341). While the schools of Islamic sciences first became mosques and masjids, they later became libraries and madrasahs (Candan, 2013, p. 119). In mosques, books are stored in compartments such as cabinets, and the first steps of establishing a library institution are taken. The use of mosques as places of education and teaching in the Turkish-Islamic tradition has been adopted from the beginning and has continued to be implemented (Alikılıç, 2002, p. 341). With the acceptance of Islam, education began to be provided for the first time in a planned and regular formal education institution called madrasah. As intellectual life developed during the Seljuk period, libraries serving as formal and non-formal educational institutions also increased in number and were enriched with many new works produced during that period. A library was built in every madrasah and public libraries were built in the cities. Anatolian Seljuks and Principalities also continued this tradition. The Ottomans, who brought unity and solidarity to Anatolia, further developed the library heritage in Turkish culture that they inherited from the Seljuks. Especially during and after the Fatih period, libraries became an integral part of other scientific and educational institutions. While these libraries ensure the socialization of information for the general public, they also contribute to the education of many scholars and the production of new information (Candan, 2013, p. 119).

The importance given to libraries and educational buildings in the Seljuk and Ottoman states is also seen in the city of Erzurum, which is located on the trade routes, as in all important cities of these states.

In Erzurum, during the Ottoman Empire period, the Golden Age of Libraries and Librarianship was

experienced, but this process took time. Various institutions were established to meet the needs of the people in new neighborhoods as the population of the city increased. Among these, the lodging, while increasing the population of the city, also increased the level of culture (Küçük 1995, p. 324, as cited in Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 709). Over time, small mosque and madrasah libraries with small collections began to be established in the city (Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 709).

Before the Turkish Republic era, according to some records, there were twelve libraries in Erzurum with names such as "Şeyhler, Cennetzâde, İbrahim Paşa, Zeynal, Fevziye, Ali Paşa, Dersane (next to Murat Paşa Mosque), Sultaniye, Customs Mosque, Gürcü Mahmut Paşa, Muid Efendi, Yeğen Ağa" (Salnâme-i Maarif, 1318: 1016 as cited in Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 709). There is no information available as to whether these libraries were independent buildings or whether they were libraries in the form of a shelf, cabinet, or cell within the structures in which they were located (Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 710). The map of the city of Erzurum in the Ottoman period prepared by the ERŞA (Erzurum City Archive) shows that some madrasahs had libraries (ERŞA 2017, as cited in Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 710).

During the Republican era, the "Halkevi Library" was established in 1940 under the name of the Erzurum General Library (Erzurum Provincial Yearbook, 1967), as cited in (Alikılıç, 2002). The library, which continued its service as a public library after 1952, was later named the Provincial Public Library. The library, which has been affiliated with the Ministry of Culture Libraries General Directorate since 1979, has continued its services in its building in the Yoncalık neighborhood (Erzurum '98], as cited in (Alikılıç, 2002, p. 346). The construction of the new building of the Provincial Public Library, located in the Ömer Nasuhi Bilmen neighborhood, began in late August 2018 and was completed in October 2019. As of January 1, 2020, it started accepting readers. The library is described as the largest library in Turkey in terms of its area (Almaz, 2022) With the opening of this building, the building in Yoncalık became obsolete.

There are a total of 23 libraries in Erzurum affiliated with the Ministry of Culture Libraries General Directorate. In the Yakutiye district, there are four libraries: Atatürk Cultural Center Library, Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library, Erzurumlu Emrah Literature Museum Library, and Kazım Karabekir Public Library. Research shows that the Atatürk Cultural Center Library is temporarily closed (EArchive, 2022).

In the literature, existing studies on libraries in Erzurum have generally focused on the history of the libraries in Erzurum (Alikılıç, 2002; Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018), specifically on the Erzurumlu Emrah Literature Museum Library (İbrahimhakkıoğlu, 2013) and, specifically, on the Erzurum Manuscript Library (Kotan, 2017; Çakmak, 2021). However, no study has been conducted on the new building of the provincial public library, specifically on the provincial public library and Kazım Karabekir public library. With this study, the purpose of today's public libraries, specifically the "Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library" and "Kazım Karabekir Public Library," has been determined, and the adequacy of the existing usage areas has been discussed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study aimed to uncover the reasons for the use of public libraries and was conducted in three steps: identification, survey, and analysis. The steps of the study are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Steps of the Study

Step	Method	Made works
Step 1	Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining the study area • Selection of the sample group • Providing general information about the structures • Creating the floor plan of the buildings
Step 2	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting surveys with users of the selected buildings
Step 3	Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering survey data into the SPSS program • Generating frequency tables for the data • Analysis of the obtained data



The first step consisted of a reconnaissance study to determine the study area and the sample group. Due to its accessibility, Erzurum Province was selected as the sample area. Erzurum Province has a total of 20 districts, with three central districts: Yakutiye, Palandöken, and Aziziye (MCT, 2022). According to the Address-Based Population Registration System Results for 2021 by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), Yakutiye is the most populous district of Erzurum Province, with a population of 187,249 (TÜİK, 2021). Through a literature review of scientific publications and internet sources, libraries located in the Yakutiye district of Erzurum that are currently in use were identified and listed (Table 2). When compiling the list, libraries located within the premises of any institutional building in room form were excluded, and only structures with standalone library functions were considered.

Table 2. List of Libraries in Yakutiye District, Erzurum

Num.	Name	Institution affiliated with
1	Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library (EArchive, 2022)	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
2	Kazım Karabekir Public Library (EArchive, 2022)	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
3	Erzurumlu Emrah Literature Museum Library (EArchive, 2022)	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
4	Erzurum Manuscript Library (Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 714)	Turkey Presidency of Manuscripts Association
5	Habib Baba Central Library (Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality-EMM, 2022)	Erzurum metropolitan municipality
6	Mehmet Doğan City Library (Anonymous, 2022)	Erzurum metropolitan municipality
7	Atatürk University Central Library (Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 714)	Atatürk University
8	Erzurum Technical University Library (Alikılıç & Yılmaz, 2018, p. 714)	Erzurum Technical University

This study focused on public libraries, with Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and Kazim Karabekir District Public Library were selected as the sample areas. The general identity information of these libraries is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Identity Information of the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and Kazim Karabekir District Public Library

Title	Information	Photograph
Name	Provincial Public Library of Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer	 <p>(Yalçın, 2022)</p>
Address	Ömer Nasuhi Mah. Somuoğlu Cad. No:1Yakutiye/Erzurum (EArchive, 2022)	
Opening Date	2020 (Almaz, 2022)	
Total Indoor Area	9.750 m ² (Almaz, 2022)	
Name	Provincial Public Library of Kazım Karabekir	 <p>(Yalçın, 2022)</p>
Address	Kavakkapı Senti Barbaros Hayrettin Paşa Mah. Yakutiye/Erzurum	
Opening Date	2005 (Çınar, Personal Interview, 5 August 2022)	
Total Indoor Area	2.256 m ² (Çınar, Personal Interview, 5 August 2022)	

The areas of the buildings were recalculated based on the floor plans, and the floor plans were schematized (Table 4). When calculating the square meters, the interior walls were considered boundaries. While the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library is 9,750 m² (Almaz, 2022), calculations within the scope of the study resulted in 8,130 m²; the Kazım Karabekir District Public Library is 2,256 m² (Çınar, Personal Interview, August 5, 2022), while it was calculated as 2,147 m² within the scope of the study. The floor plans of the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library were obtained from the authorized personnel of the designing firm, while the floor plans of the Kazım Karabekir District Public Library were obtained from the data archive of the Provincial Public Library. Although the digital plans of the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library were accessible, the digital archive of the Kazım Karabekir District Public Library could not be accessed. For this library, the project was approximately transferred to digital media based on a known measurement from a previously drawn sketch. The names of the spaces in the plan were updated according to their current uses through on-site observation techniques.

Table 4. Floor Plans of the Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and Kazim Karabekir District Public Library





The spaces in the two selected libraries were categorized, and the sizes of the spaces were examined categorically (Table 4 and Table 5). The Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library has larger and more diverse spaces than the Kazim Karabekir District Public Library in terms of space size and variety. While there is no specific space designated for individual or group study in the Kazim Karabekir District Public Library, it was observed that reading areas are used for this purpose. Additionally, it was observed that the second floor of the same library is used for educational courses by a woman's cooperative.



Table 5. Space Dimensions of the Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and Kazim Karabekir District Public Library

Spaces	Erzurum Ismail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library- m ²	Percentage to Total Area	Kazim Karabekir District Public Library- m ²	Percentage to Total Area
Reading Areas	1670,75	20,55	235,40	10,97
Working places	335,75	4,13	-	0,00
Children's Areas	532,65	6,55	216,60	10,09
Areas for Disabled Individuals	59,00	0,73	-	0,00
Internet Domains	167,70	2,07	95,50	4,45
Workshop Areas	135,35	1,67	-	0,00
Event Areas	922,20	11,35	-	0,00
Training Classes	78,95	0,98	222,2	10,34
Food and Beverage Areas	239,60	2,95	216,70	10,09
Management and Personnel Areas	606,60	7,46	99,4	4,63
Technical Units	462,20	5,68	407,80	18,99
Wet areas	340,60	4,18	134,70	6,27
Horizontal Circulation	1888,40	23,22	364,1	16,95
Vertical Circulation	633,90	7,79	126	5,87
Masjid	56,40	0,69	29	1,35
Total area	8130,05	100	2147	100

The second step consists of a survey conducted with library users. The survey comprises two sections: user profile and library usage habits. In the user profile section, age, gender, educational background, and occupation are queried, while the library usage habits section investigates the frequency of library visits and the purposes of library usage. A five-point Likert scale was used to assess the purpose of library usage. With a five-point Likert scale, the survey is structured as follows: (1) never, (2) rarely, (3) occasionally, (4) frequently, and (5) always (Özdemir, 2018, pp. 60-68). The purposes of library usage were listed based on a literature review and considering the spaces in the two sampled buildings (Table 6). Participants were instructed to evaluate their general library usage and not to focus solely on the library they were in at the time of the survey. Since it is presumed that during the academic year, library users predominantly consist of students, the survey was conducted between August 28, 2022, and September 12, 2022, aiming for diversity in the participant profiles.

Table 6. Library Usage Purposes Considered in the Study

Sources	Intended uses
(Kurulgan & Çekerol, 2008, s. 249)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To borrow resources (books, magazines, etc.) To research for assignments To read books To read newspapers To read magazines To gain knowledge on cultural subjects
(Al & Soydal, 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spend leisure time To make photocopies
(Alaca, 2015: 254)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To participate in organized cultural events
(Cevher, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To socialize with friends To use the internet/computer



(Erkan, 2017: 92)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To study individually • To study in groups • For socializing • For meetings and conferences
These options were added by the authors because there are areas in library spaces that serve these functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use the café area • To play games • For workshop activities • For maker workshops • To attend provided trainings • For my child to read books • For children's cinema

In the third step, the survey data obtained in the study were analysed. The frequency, percentage distribution, and arithmetic mean were used to evaluate the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ethics committee document required for the study was received by Atatürk University, Science and Engineering Sciences Ethics Committee, with the number E-60665420-000-2400195018. The ethics committee has unanimously decided that there is no harm in conducting the study in terms of scientific ethics in the context of the document. A survey was conducted with a total of 110 users, including 65 individuals from the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library and 45 individuals from the Kazım Karabekir Public Library, who were selected as the sample group for the study. Due to some options being left blank or multiple responses given in the surveys, 5 surveys from each library were considered invalid. For ease of expression, the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Provincial Public Library is referred to as "Library A", and the Kazım Karabekir Public Library is referred to as "Library B". The demographic information of the participants in the survey is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Demographic Information of Users

Demographic Properties		Library A		Library B		Total	
		Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Woman	26	43,3	29	72,5	55	55,0
	Man	34	56,7	11	27,5	45	45,0
Age range	10-19	15	25,0	26	65,0	41	41,0
	20-29	30	50,0	7	17,5	37	37,0
	30-39	11	18,3	2	5,0	13	13,0
	40-49	3	5,0	3	7,5	6	6,0
	50-59	1	1,7	2	5,0	3	3,0
Education	Primary School	-	-	9	22,5	9	9,0
	Secondary School	3	5,0	12	30,0	15	15,0
	High School	14	23,3	11	27,5	25	25,0
	Beachelor Degree	34	56,7	7	17,5	41	41,0
	Master Degree and above	9	15,0	1	2,5	10	10,0
Occupation	Officer	14	23,3	-	-	14	14,0
	Employee	-	-	7	17,5	7	7,0
	Self-employment	6	10,0	-	-	6	6,0
	Student	29	48,3	29	72,5	58	58,0
	Not working	11	18,3	4	10,0	15	15,0



As shown in Table 8, the sample group consists of a total of 100 individuals, with 55 being female and 45 being male. The age distribution of the participants was as follows: 41 individuals were in the age range of 10-19, 37 individuals were in the age range of 20-29, 13 individuals were in the age range of 30-39, 6 individuals were in the age range of 40-49, and 3 individuals were in the age range of 50-59. Regarding their educational backgrounds, 9 individuals had primary school education, 15 individuals had secondary school education, 25 individuals had high school education, 41 individuals had university education, and 10 individuals had postgraduate education. The distribution of occupations varies, with 14 individuals working as civil servants, 7 individuals as workers, 6 individuals as self-employed, 58 individuals as students, and 15 individuals as unemployed.

Table 8. Frequency of library usage by users

Frequency of Use		Library A		Library B		Total	
		Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)
Frequency	This is my first visit	1	1,7	3	7,5	4	4,0
	Every day	26	43,3	6	15,0	32	32,0
	Several times a week	20	33,3	19	47,5	39	39,0
	Once every two weeks	8	13,3	2	5,0	10	10,0
	Once a month	2	3,3	5	12,5	7	7,0
	Once every three months	1	1,7	-	-	1	1,0
	Once in six months	1	1,7	1	2,5	2	2,0
	Once a year	-	-	3	7,5	3	3,0
	Other	1	1,7	1	2,5	2	2,0

When examining the frequency of library usage (Table 8), 4 individuals stated, "this is my first visit", 32 individuals visited every day, 39 individuals visited several times a week, 10 individuals visited every two weeks, 7 individuals visited monthly, 1 individual visited every three months, 2 individuals visited every six months, and 3 individuals visited once a year.

In the analysis of the data obtained from the Likert scale questions within the scope of the study, the arithmetic mean was considered. The arithmetic mean was evaluated as the frequency level of the question of which purpose the library was used for and how often. The boundaries of each level in the five-point Likert scale used to determine what level of frequency the obtained average scores represented were calculated (Özdemir, 2018). The intervals in the scale were determined as equal intervals according to the formula "5-1=4, 4/5=0.80" (Dursun & Saracaloğlu, 2017, p. 104). According to the formula, the levels are as follows: never for 1.00-1.79; rarely for 1.80-2.59; occasionally for 2.60-3.39; frequently for 3.40-4.19; and always for 4.20-5.00. Participants were asked whether they had brought their children, siblings, or nephews to the library, and they were asked to respond accordingly. There were 13 individuals who responded in this way in the A library and 7 in the B library, for a total of 20 individuals.

Table 9. Users' Purposes for Library Usage

Purposes of Use	Library A	Library B	Total
To borrow resources (books, magazines, etc.)	2,43	3	2,66
For individual study	4,15	3,42	3,86
To study as a group	2,1	2,07	2,09
To research the homework topic	2,08	2,56	2,27
To read books	2,14	3,2	2,57
To read newspaper	1,2	1,2	1,20
To read magazines	1,28	1,31	1,29



To make a photocopy	1,27	1,52	1,37
To be informed about cultural issues	2,07	2,38	2,19
To participate in organized cultural events	1,5	1,75	1,60
To socialize	1,97	2,03	1,99
To attend meetings and conferences	1,3	1,4	1,34
To spend free time	1,37	1,9	1,58
To be with my friends	1,6	1,8	1,68
To use the internet/computer	1,9	2,05	1,96
To use the cafe area	1,22	1,28	1,24
To avoid playing games	1,17	1,15	1,16
To do a workshop	1,17	1,43	1,27
To hold a maker workshop	1,13	1,3	1,20
To participate in the training provided	1,23	1,64	1,39
For my child to read books	3,23	3,33	3,26
For children's cinema	1,15	1,29	1,20
To do a workshop with my child	1,92	1,43	1,75
To do a maker workshop with my child	1,77	1,29	1,60
For play/activity area with my child	2,92	1,29	2,35

Table 9 presents the frequency of users' library usage. According to the responses of the participants, the "never" level range appears, indicating that the purposes of reading newspapers, reading magazines, making photocopies, attending organized cultural events, attending meetings and conferences, using the café area, playing games, participating in workshops, participating in maker workshops, attending training sessions, children's cinema, and using the library for maker workshops with their child are rarely used or used very little. Additionally, the average value generally tends to be greater for the B library than for the A library, with users of the A library showing greater usage for playing games and participating in maker workshops with their child than do users of the B library. Furthermore, users of library A tend to use the library for leisure and socializing with friends, while users of library B tend to use it for workshops with their child and for children's play/activity area, with the "never" level appearing.

According to the responses, the frequency of using libraries for group study, researching homework topics, gaining cultural knowledge, socializing, and using the internet/computer was within the "rarely" range. The average is predominantly greater for the B library than for the A library, with users of the A library showing greater usage for group studies than users of the B library. Additionally, users of library A tend to use the library for borrowing resources (books, magazines, etc.), reading books, and conducting workshops with their child, while users of library B tend to use it for leisure and socializing with friends, with the "rarely" level appearing.

According to the responses, the frequency of using the libraries for their child to read books is in the "occasionally" range. The average was greater for the B library than for the A library. Additionally, users of library A tend to use the library for children's play/activity area, while users of library B tend to use it for borrowing resources (books, magazines, etc.) and reading books, with the "occasionally" level appearing.

According to the responses of the participants, the frequency of using the libraries for individual studies was in the "frequently" range. The average value in the A library was greater than that in the B library. According to the responses, there is no usage purpose that consistently appears at the "always" level in library usage.

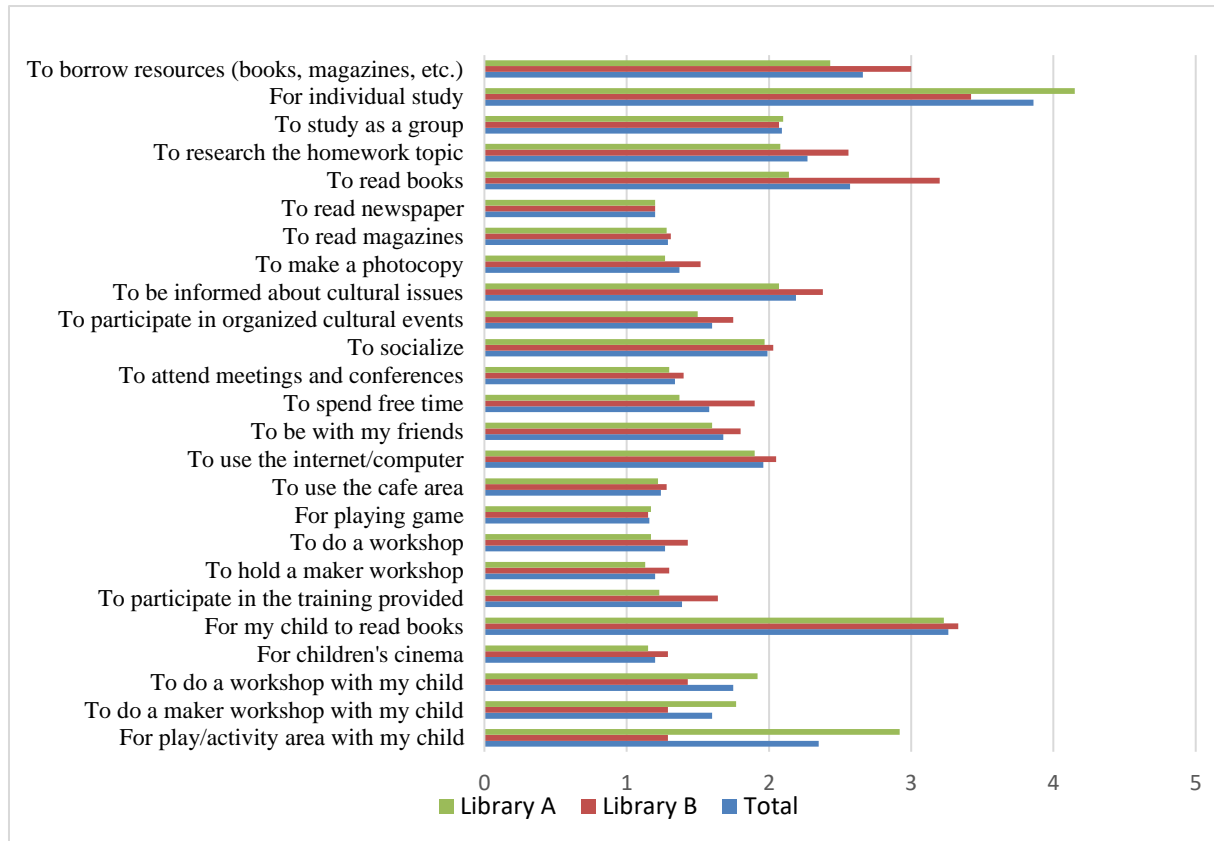


Figure 1. Users' Purposes of Library Usage

According to the demographic information, the majority of library users are under 40 years of age, and generally, individuals with a high school education or above tend to use the library. Therefore, libraries need to be made more attractive to older individuals with lower educational levels. Figure 1 shows that usage purposes are parallel except for the use of children's play activity areas.

When looking at the percentages of areas allocated for children's play areas (Figure 2), it is observed that users prefer libraries with smaller children's areas. While showing parallels in other activities related to children, the preference for the A library in the play activity area implies that the play activity area in the B library is insufficient compared to that in the A library. Therefore, considering that the children's section of the B library is physically larger, it can be said that the development of the play activity area is necessary.

When examining the areas allocated for children in both libraries, it is observed that they have a lower percentage compared to other areas, with 6.55% and 10.09%, respectively. Libraries are used for various purposes related to children, primarily for reading books. Considering that the purpose of children's reading ranks second after individual study sessions in terms of library usage purposes, it becomes more apparent how inadequate the space allocated for children is. Therefore, it can be said that enlarging the areas allocated for children in both libraries is necessary.

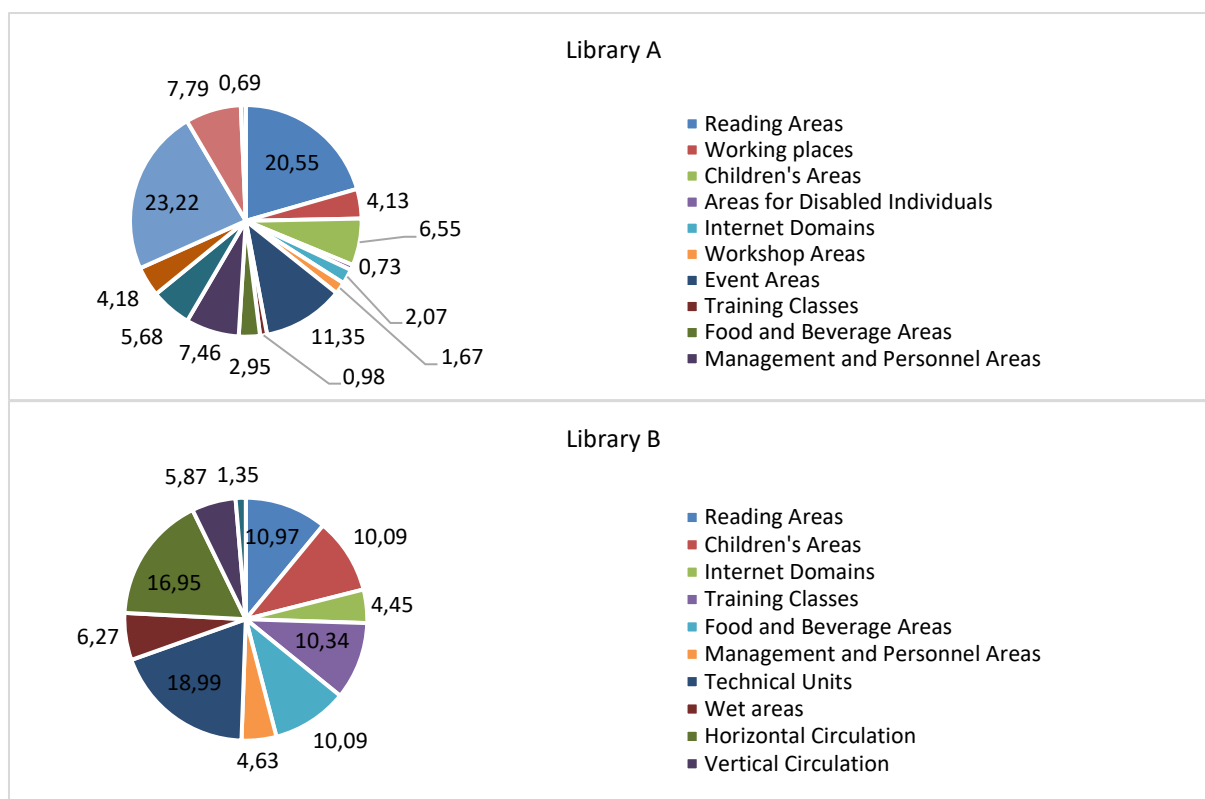


Figure 2. Percentage distribution of space sizes in libraries relative to total area
 Among the usage purposes of libraries, individual study ranks highest, followed by research for assignments and group work, indicating a significant usage of libraries for these purposes. Therefore, it is necessary to create study areas within libraries, in addition to reading rooms, with space allocation comparable to that of reading areas. However, upon examining the two existing libraries in Erzurum, it was found that the allocated space for the study areas was insufficient in the A Library (4.13%) or nonexistent in the B Library.

With respect to usage purposes, individuals who preferred libraries for internet/computer usage purposes had significantly lower rates than did those who used libraries for study, research, and group work purposes. Moreover, it is notable that the internet areas within the libraries occupy a considerable amount of space (A Library: 20.55%, B Library: 16.95%). Therefore, to increase the presence of study areas within libraries, where space allocation is currently limited or nonexistent, the allocation of space for internet areas could be reduced.

CONCLUSION

This study compared the usage purposes of library structures and the spaces they offer to users through the Erzurum İsmail Saib Sencer Library and Kazım Karabekir District Library in Erzurum. User preferences and usage purposes in library spaces were identified based on the libraries in Erzurum, and the relationship between the current planning of libraries and user preferences was examined. The data obtained indicated that libraries are predominantly used for studying, children's spaces, and social-cultural purposes. However, due to the excess allocation of space for internet/computer usage within the current layout of libraries, spaces for these purposes are insufficient. Therefore, it is suggested that spatial arrangements in libraries should be modified to reduce internet/computer areas and increase spaces for studying, children, and social-cultural activities.

Moreover, libraries need to be appealing to individuals with low educational levels and those above 40 years old. To enhance the cultural level of society, library structures that appeal to all age groups and educational levels should be established. Libraries that cater to every age group and educational level and are used by all segments of society will contribute to raising Turkish society to the level of contemporary civilizations.



As technology evolves and user preferences change, adjustments should be made to library structures, similar to other types of buildings. Failure to make these adjustments will render the structures obsolete and unable to meet user needs.

In conclusion, increasing the spaces for studying, children, and social-cultural activities in libraries according to user preferences, particularly in Erzurum, will prevent libraries from becoming obsolete and ensure that they adapt to current conditions. The development and evolution of libraries throughout history will continue to guide humanity toward progress and development on a global scale.

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