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 The ÇEMBİL Information Centre at Middle East Technical  
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Mustafa Pultar, Ph. D., Dean of the Faculty of  
 Architecture, Middle East Technical University, Ankara,  
 Turkey

#### Summary

This paper describes the purpose, method of operation  
 and facilities of ÇEMBİL Information Centre in the  
 Department of Building Science and Environmental Design  
 at Middle East Technical University in Ankara.

The centre has been established in 1979 jointly by  
 the Faculty of Architecture and the Society for  
 Environmental and Architectural Sciences. It collects,  
 processes and stores information on

- a. research institutions throughout the world,
- b. research bulletins of these institutions, and
- c. bibliographic data in the following fields:
  1. Man-environment relations
  2. Building science
  3. Design science and methodology.

It offers services in the same fields in the  
 following forms:

- a. Open-access display.
- b. Current awareness service.
- c. Bibliographic surveys.
- d. Loan and duplication of documents.

#### Résumé

Cet article discute la raison d'être et les méthodes  
 de travail du Centre d'Information ÇEMBİL, dans la  
 section des Sciences du Bâtiment et de la Conception  
 (Design) de l'Environnement, à la Faculté d'Architecture  
 de l'Université Technique du Moyen-Orient (METU),  
 Ankara, et les facilités que cet établissement offre.

Le Centre a été fondé en 1979, conjointement par la  
 Faculté d'Architecture de METU et la Société des  
 Sciences de l'Environnement et de l'Architecture (SEAS).

Il inventoie, procède et emmagasine les informations  
 concernant:

- a. Les institutions de recherche (leur principes de  
 travail et champs d'activité, leurs politiques  
 générales, leurs adresses, etc) à travers le monde.
- b. Les bulletins de recherches de ces institutions.
- c. Les informations bibliographiques dans les domaines  
 suivants:

1. Les relations entre l'homme et l'environnement.
2. La science du bâtiment.
3. La science et la méthodologie de la conception.

Le Centre offre ses services dans les mêmes domaines  
 et par les moyens ci-dessous:

- a. Exposition publiques.
- b. Service d'information des actualités.
- c. Recherche bibliographique.
- d. Prêt des documents.

#### The Backcloth

Documentation in architectural science (environmental,  
 design and building sciences) in Turkey is a relatively  
 recent activity and provided mainly through the  
 following institutions:

- a. The Building Research Institute (YAE), in Ankara,  
 of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of  
 Turkey. (TBTAK)
- b. The Building Research Establishment (YAK) in the  
 Istanbul Technical University.
- c. The central documentation centre (TÜRDOK) of TBTAK.
- d. Libraries of major technical universities.

In general, the material handled by these  
 institutions is either too general in scope, as in the  
 case of the university libraries or TÜRDOK, or too  
 narrowly restricted to building science, as in the  
 case of YAE and YAK, to be of functional use to a  
 large portion of researchers and students in  
 architectural science in its globality. One can easily  
 say that the range of national and international  
 journals collected by these institutions is fairly  
 comprehensive. However, the information that they  
 process and present to the user on on-going research  
 in the world, both in the form of bulletins and  
 abstracts and in the form of research reports is very  
 limited. Furthermore, none offers bibliographic search  
 services, except for TÜRDOK which does this for such  
 a large clientele with a small staff that its service  
 is bound to remain unspecialized.

This is the backcloth against which the ÇEMBİL  
 Information Centre at Middle East Technical University  
 has to be examined as regards both its purpose and  
 service.

#### The ÇEMBİL Information Centre

Middle East Technical University (METU), established  
 in 1956 in Ankara, is a technical university offering  
 instruction in English and has an international student  
 body of ca. 13.000 students. It incorporates departments  
 of science, social sciences, administrative sciences,  
 engineering, planning and architecture.

In 1979, the Faculty of Architecture founded a new  
 graduate, multi-disciplinary department with the aim  
 of training academicians, researchers and high level  
 administrators for issues related to the man-made  
 environment including design and building. Called the  
 Department of Building Science and Environmental  
 Design (BSED), this new department offers the following  
 fields as areas of specialization:

- a. Man-environment relations (including historical,  
 sociological, psychological, administrative, economic  
 and physiological analyses.)
- b. Building Science (including building physics,  
 environmental controls, construction science.)
- c. Design Science and Methodology (including systems  
 analysis and computer aided design.)

Instruction is built around actual research projects  
 which are conducted jointly by staff and students are  
 supported by various public and private institutions  
 in Turkey.

The demand of the programme for strong research documentation as necessary for its healthy development and activity was the main reason for the foundation of an information centre within the premises of the department. It was foreseen that the centre would provide services immediately available to the staff and students of a nature not provided by other institutions. The Society for Environmental and Architectural Sciences (SEAS), a national society composed mainly of academicians and building researchers at this time, supported the project as it was in line with one of the society's major aims; that of establishing a network of communication between researchers. According to the terms of a protocol set between SEAS and BSED, the ÇEMBİL (Environmental and Architectural Sciences) Information Centre was started as a joint venture. BSED provides space and personnel for the centre and is responsible for gathering, processing and storing of documentary material, whereas SEAS appoints one of its members to serve in an advisory capacity and one secretary for the running of the centre, makes annual donations to METU to cover a modest portion of the running costs and turns over to the centre all documentary material that it receives through various sources. The services of the centre are open to all students and staff of METU and to members of SEAS as well.

The ÇEMBİL Centre works in cooperation with and uses the facilities of the central library of METU, where material in the form of books and periodicals is collected and which is one of the major bibliographic centres in Turkey. The centre also uses the central computer facilities of METU for its files and bibliographic searches as well as the photocopy/microfilm/microfiche facilities of the library and the registrar's office.

#### Material Gathered and Services Offered

Collection of material gathered in the ÇEMBİL Centre is guided by the main aim of the centre which is to provide information about on-going research in the world and bibliographic data in the fields of interest of BSED. Thus, the centre gathers:

- a. Information on the purpose, methods of operation of and annual reports from research units in the world whether these be government, university or private institutions.
- b. Newsletters and research directories from these institutions.
- c. Abstracts or synopses of on-going research at these institutions.
- d. Bibliographic material for its data files.
- e. To a lesser extent, research reports from research units.

The material is gathered mainly in the form of documents or in microfilm/microfiche format. Bibliographic material is stored in tape and disk files.

The services offered by the centre are:

- a. Open access display of material.

- b. Running of a current awareness service. (This is published in the aperiodic news bulletin (ÇEMBİL Bulletin) of SEAS and is distributed nationally.)
  - c. Running of a bibliographic data bank on a computer based system. (The service involves storage as well as search on the basis of keywords.)
  - d. Loan of reports to researchers and photocopy service from documents and microfilm/microfiche.
- The range of the material handled by the centre is limited by the areas of specialization of BSED.

#### Implementation

The technique of implementation envisioned in the establishment of the ÇEMBİL Information Centre has been to start gathering all of the material and offering all of the services discussed above simultaneously and to facilitate growth in all directions simultaneously. In spite of the obvious drawbacks of this procedure, it has facilitated the immediate and total involvement of the centre in the academic life of BSED and this has been its primary aim. The volume of material and services handled at this time is very modest when compared to the scale of other specialized information centres. It is hoped, however, that the financial support necessary for handling greater volumes may be found once the centre demonstrates itself to be viable in face of the aims that have been set for it.