Restructuring LC classification for Turkish Law: Rewriting KKX codes and subject headings in Turkish and English

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Overview of Turkish Legal Literature

- Turkish law follows the continental legal tradition.
- Legal literature is shaped by European influences and Ottoman heritage.
- Growing interest in Anglo-American topics: AI, internet law, etc.
- Legal publishing is booming: over 3,000 books published in 2023.
- Challenges in cataloging and classification.

Turkish Legal Collections in Libraries

- Libraries face pressure to manage expanding collections.
- Legal publications include monographs, theses, commentaries, case studies etc.
- Many titles are print-only; digital transition is slow.
- Printed materials continue to dominate Turkish legal research.

Why This Project Was Needed

- The motivation behind this project stems from a combination of political, structural, and technological challenges affecting Turkish legal literature and its classification:

- Inefficiency of LCSH in representing Turkish legal concepts and historical depth: The existing classification is fragmented and lacks consistency. Hierarchical structures have not been consistently maintained. Another major issue is the inadequacy of subject headings for Ottoman and modern law.

- Frequent administrative and political reforms affecting legal terminology and literature production.

- Lack of updated subject headings and call number coverage for modern fields such as AI law, digital rights, and personal data.

- Slow adaptation to digital library systems and continued reliance on printed legal works.

- Need for a structured, localized subject authority file to support catalogers and legal researchers alike.

Our Project: Goals and Purpose

- Systematically rewrite KKX call numbers for Turkish law.
- Develop a Turkish law authority file for catalogers.
- Ensure compatibility with LCSH and RDA principles.
- Enable user-friendly, topic-based library shelving.

Why Translation Alone Fails

- LCSH lacks concepts for civil law systems.
- Turkish legal terms often lack English equivalents.
- Local legal culture and history need native structuring.
- Simply translating headings doesn't reflect conceptual certainty.

Project Implementation

- Reviewed LC's classification limits and gaps.
- Gained basic training in RDA principles.
- We developed a revised KKX range and structured subject headings: KKX1 to 10000)
- Began with KKX5000 (Administrative Law).

Restructure: Change of the systematic of the Turkish law on shelves

- On LCSH, Turkish Law begins with the general works, continuing private law and lastly public law.
- Change of the system: From private and public law to private, public law and new subdivisions of Turkish law: such as intellectual property, banking, competition law.

New call numbers for Turkish law on KKX

- KKX1 – KKX150 : General works
- KKX150 – KKX500 : History of Turkish Law
- KKX500 – KKX800 : Administration of justice, Practice of Law (Advocacy), Notary…
- KKX800 – KKX1000 : Conflict of laws
- KKX1000 – KKX2200 : Civil law [Example for subdivisions]
- KKX1000 – KKX1100 : Civil law (introduction and)
- KKX1100 – KKX1200 : Persons
- KKX1200 – KKX1400 : Domestic relations (Family law)
- KKX1400 – KKX1500 : Inheritance and succession
- KKX1500 – KKX1700 : Law of property
- KKX1700 – KKX1900 : Obligations (General part of law of obligations)
- KKX1900 – KKX2200 : Contracts (Private part of law of obligations)

Call Numbers for Turkish Law on KKX

- KKX2200 – KKX3000 : Commercial law, negotiable instruments, corporations, maritime law and insurance law
- KKX3000 – KKX3500 : Labor law and its subdivisions
- KKX3500 – KKX4500 : Civil procedure and executions
- KKX4500 – KKX5000 : Constitutional law
- KKX5000 – KKX6400 : Administrative law and subdivisions
- KKX6400 – KKX7000 : Taxation and tax law
- KKX7000 – KKX8000 : Criminal law, crimes and criminal procedure

Turkish Law Call Numbers: New Areas of the Law

- KKX8000 – KKX8200 : Health law
- KKX8200 – KKX8300 : Consumer law
- KKX8300 – KKX8400 : Media or press law
- KKX8400 – KKX9000 : Information technology, internet, AI, social media, smart contracts, personal data etc.
- KKX9000 – KKX9400 : Intellectual property
- KKX9400 – KKX9600 : Antitrust law
- KKX9600 – KKX10000 : Banking law, economic law, capital market law

Systematic Use of Call Numbers for Genre/Form of Law Books

- The Turkish legal bibliography consists of works in various forms. To improve shelf arrangement and reduce cataloging congestion, we have assigned distinct numerical prefixes for each genre or form of publication.
- 00 Digests
- 02 Statutes and codes
- 04 Legal commentaries
- 05 Court decisions and opinions
- 06 Congress
- 08 Miscellanea
- 10 Handbooks and manuals
- 12 Problems and exercises
- 14 Periodicals
- 16 Bibliographies
- 18 Dictionaries
- 20 Philosophy, interpretation and construction
- 30 Criminal provisions

Hierarchy within the main subdivisions

- Hierarchical relationships: broader, narrower, related subject headings are grouped accordingly. The hierarchical relationships are always taken into consideration, because the main goal of this work is to present a good and complete bibliography on the shelves.
- e.g. KKX1000 – Civil law > KKX1100 – Persons

  > KKX1200 – Family law

  > KKX 1400 – Inheritance

Subject headings from the academics of law faculty

- For a clear analysis of how to structure the Turkish law, the staff of the Law Faculty is consulted. We are given lists of subjects, convenient to Turkish law literature in the area. It was a crucial contribution for the choice of correct subject headings in Turkish.
- Those lists are not convenient to create subject headings, so all terms were rewritten according to RDA principles.
- Unfortunately, the AI tools were not available at the time this project began when we started this project.

Challenges and Lessons

- Translating legal terms proved very difficult.
- Required 18 months of research and restructuring.
- Lack of legal expertise among library staff was a barrier.
- Input from legal scholars was essential for relevance.

Conclusion and Future Steps

- Turkish legal authority records require further expansion.
- Collaboration between catalogers and legal experts is key.
- AI tools may assist future structuring and classification.
- We aim to support global discoverability and bibliographic clarity for Turkish legal sources.

Thank you! / Teşekkür ederim