

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB196

(Question Serial No. 1606)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

With regard to the public library services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from public libraries in the past year? What were the respective numbers of loans of locally published Chinese and English books?
- (b) What was the total expenditure on the acquisition of books by public libraries in the past year? What were the respective expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books? What are the estimated expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books and the total expenditure on book acquisition for the coming year?
- (c) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children which are available for loan, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired in the past financial year. What was the number of books acquired and the expenditure incurred, as well as the number of loans for the books in the financial year? (Note: please exclude the publications of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority acquired.)

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works				
Philosophy				
Religion				

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
Social Sciences				
Language				
Natural Science				
Applied Science				
Arts				
Literature				
History				
Fiction				
Junior Fiction				
Picture Books				

- (d) How will the Government assess the loss caused to the sales of the books written and published locally and the copyright of their authors by the acquisition and the number of loans of these books? Will the Government consider introducing the “public lending right” to promote local writing and publishing and strengthen the protection of intellectual property?
- (e) Please provide information on the expenditure on e-books in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years; the loan of and means of access to e-books (e.g. online access and access in the libraries etc.) in 2015-16; and the plan to promote e-books and the expenditure involved in 2016-17.
- (f) What were the staff establishment and expenditure for the provision of lending services in public libraries in the past year?
- (g) How much did the Government pay for the acquisition of music and video materials as well as the copyrights of music and video materials in the past year?
- (h) The Government will provide on a trial basis 3 self-service library units, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories. What are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2015 were 37.8 million and 11.4 million respectively. It is estimated that the numbers of loans of Hong Kong publications were 18.3 million and 0.8 million for Chinese and English books respectively.

- (b) The estimated expenditure in 2015-16 for purchase of books for the HKPL is about \$52 million, of which the estimated expenditures for Chinese and English books published in Hong Kong are \$13 million and \$1 million respectively. It is expected that the estimated expenditures for purchase of books and locally published books for 2016-17 will be at the similar level for 2015-16.
- (c) Information on the top 10 titles acquired in 2015-16 for lending with breakdown by adult and junior type and by language (excluding publications of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority) is at Annex I. Information on further breakdown by classification, as well as expenditure incurred on each title is not readily available under the current database system.
- (d) The HKPL follows the principles laid down in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Public Library Manifesto in developing a diversified library collection to meet the community's needs for information and research, to support continuous education and profitable use of leisure, and to promote literary arts.

Indeed, the HKPL has over the years actively promoted literary arts through the acquisition and collection of suitable library materials and organisation of various promotional activities. There are no ready mechanisms that can be used to assess the impact on book sales as a result of their availability in public libraries, because the number of loans of a particular book does not have a direct bearing on the number of books that could have been sold in the market. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) considers the claim that the use of copyrights works through public libraries detracts from primary sales is unproven, and that lending by publicly accessible libraries often assists in the marketing of copyright works and encourages sales.

Public Lending Right (PLR) is a controversial issue internationally. At present, the guidelines promulgated by IFLA do not require the adoption of a PLR system and there is no consensus among public libraries internationally whether such a system should be adopted. We will continue to keep up the efforts in encouraging reading and promoting literature, which in our view is a better way to promote the work of Hong Kong authors.

- (e) The estimated expenditure on the acquisition of e-book collections in 2015-16 is \$3.5 million, representing a 151% increase of that in 2014-15. The budget for 2016-17 will be maintained at similar level for 2015-16. Usage statistics of e-book collections are at Annex II. The HKPL will continue to promote the e-book collections through various publicity channels including newsletters, user education sessions, school visits, IT workshops and the e-Resources sub-portal of the HKPL website in 2016-17. The cost will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.
- (f) The staff establishment for providing library services, including lending services, under Programme (5): Public Libraries as at 1 April 2015 was 1 339 and the estimated staff cost for 2015-16 is \$460 million.

- (g) The HKPL enters into contracts with suppliers of audio-visual materials under which the HKPL is granted the right or licence to provide reading, listening and viewing services of such materials at designated libraries as well as the right to lend audio materials to any third party. Apart from paying contractual fees to the suppliers, the HKPL is not required to pay extra charge for the provision of the above-mentioned services on a loan basis since the suppliers are bound by the contracts to ensure that the audio-visual materials supplied to the public libraries can be used without any restriction.

The HKPL pays royalties/licence fees to the registered licensing bodies for the public performance of music and background music during events held in the libraries and the hiring units of the Hong Kong Central Library, as well as the showing and playing of music works at the individual workstations of public libraries. In 2015-16, the estimated expenditure for purchase of music and video materials is about \$10.3 million and the total amount that the Government paid for the copyrights of music and video materials to relevant licensing bodies is about \$0.2 million.

- (h) The HKPL plans to provide 3 self-service library units, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories, on a trial basis with a view to exploring the feasibility and benefits of providing round-the-clock library services on borrowing, returning, picking up reserved library materials, and payment of library fees and charges through Octopus. The pilot service is expected to be launched in 2017-18. The HKPL is currently exploring suitable locations with high pedestrian flow and convenient access to public. Details and cost are being worked out.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Top 10 Books Acquired for Lending
(Financial Year 2015-16)

The titles listed below were purchased during the period from April 2015 to March 2016, the number of use count of which depends on when the item is put into circulation after it is processed. For items for which use count is “N.A.”, they are under processing at the time when preparing this report, and hence the figures are not available.

Table 1 (English Books for Adult Lending)

Titles of the top 10 books in term of copies acquired in 2015-16				
Item	Title	Author	Total number of copies acquired	Cumulative Use Count # as at 7 March 2016
1	Business writing for Hong Kong.	Grahame T. Bilbow	120	297
2	Foot print Cheung Chau, Hong Kong 2015 : an all-around and in depth guide 長洲足印 : 全方位長洲深度遊.	Lam Photo Art	82	164
3	Windows 10 for dummies.	Andy Rathbone	81	15
4	Geological heritage of Hong Kong 香港地質瑰寶.	Chan Lung Sang	74	385
5	Easy Office 2016.	Patrice-Anne Rutledge	71	N.A.
6	Improve your punctuation and grammar.	Marion Field	70	442
7	Growing your own food in Hong Kong.	Arthur van Langenberg	69	335
8	Hong Kong auditing : economic theory and practice.	Ferdinand A. Gul, Simon Y.K. Fung	64	447
9	Tort law in Hong Kong : an introductory guide.	Stephen D. Mau	57	127
10	Advanced taxation in Hong Kong.	Dora Lee	55	330

Remark:

- A total of 10 titles are included.
- The use count figures (#) for the above copies are the cumulative loan statistics generated by the Hong Kong Public Libraries' computer system on 7 March 2016.

Table 2 (English Books for Junior Lending)

Titles of the top 10 books in term of copies acquired in 2015-16				
Item	Title	Author	Total number of copies acquired	Cumulative Use Count # as at 7 March 2016
1	Back in time : the second journey through time.	Geronimo Stilton	156	24
2	The secret of the snow.	Thea Stilton	153	42
3-7	Danger in the darkest hour.	Mary Pope Osborne	150	939
	Soccer on Sunday.	ditto	150	1 383
	The fastest train in the west.	Geronimo Stilton	150	1 846
	The first mouse on the Moon.	ditto	150	1 964
	Thomas and the Easter Egg Hunt.	Based on the Railway series by the Reverend W Awdry	150	1 000
8-9	The dragon prophecy : the fourth adventure in the Kingdom of Fantasy.	Geronimo Stilton	149	1 817
	The search for treasure : the sixth adventure in the Kingdom of Fantasy.	ditto	149	1 845
10	The story of Thomas the Tank Engine.	Ronne Randall	148	776

Remark:

- A total of 10 titles are included.
- The use count figures (#) for the above copies are the cumulative loan statistics generated by the Hong Kong Public Libraries' computer system on 7 March 2016.

Table 3 (Chinese Books for Adult Lending)

Titles of the top 10 books in term of copies acquired in 2015-16				
Item	Title	Author	Total number of copies acquired	Cumulative Use Count # as at 7 March 2016
1-2	如果有,還未找到	亦舒	210	318
	某家的女兒	亦舒	210	28
3-10	20億次心跳	林詠琛	202	20
	大宅	亦舒	202	3 163
	分手是最漫長的告別：鄭梓靈散文集	鄭梓靈	202	126
	水晶宮	衛斯理	202	1 422
	另類複製	衛斯理	202	1 107
	本性難移	衛斯理	202	920
	再也不能一起了嗎?	鄭梓靈	202	2 353
	改變	衛斯理	202	1 229
	到陰間去	衛斯理	202	995
	幸運星	亦舒	202	1 152
	盲點遊戲	林詠琛	202	980
	洪荒	衛斯理	202	1 106
	活路	衛斯理	202	1 076
	原形	衛斯理	202	1 007
	將來	衛斯理	202	1 196
	從陰間來	衛斯理	202	1 404
	移魂怪物	衛斯理	202	1 160
	許願	衛斯理	202	960
	陰差陽錯	衛斯理	202	1 292
	陰魂不散	衛斯理	202	1 157
雪迷宮	林詠琛	202	2 847	

Titles of the top 10 books in term of copies acquired in 2015-16

Item	Title	Author	Total number of copies acquired	Cumulative Use Count # as at 7 March 2016
3-10	黃金故事	衛斯理	202	1 824
	傳說	衛斯理	202	1 181
	微積分	亦舒	202	632
	愛情,不是你為我做了甚麼,而是我們一起做了些甚麼	張小嫻	202	128
	新武器	衛斯理	202	1 189
	解脫	衛斯理	202	1 051
	解開密碼	衛斯理	202	1 008
	遊戲	衛斯理	202	1 589
	電王	衛斯理	202	1 906
	禍根	衛斯理	202	1 178
	算帳	衛斯理	202	1 036
	豪賭	衛斯理	202	1 619
	請帶我走. 上	鄭梓靈	202	51
	請帶我走. 下	鄭梓靈	202	27
	遺傳	衛斯理	202	1 005
雙程	衛斯理	202	1 108	

Remark:

- A total of 39 titles are included.
- The use count figures (#) for the above copies are the cumulative loan statistics generated by the Hong Kong Public Libraries' computer system on 7 March 2016.

Table 4 (Chinese Books for Junior Lending)

Titles of the top 10 books in term of copies acquired in 2015-16				
Item	Title	Author	Total number of copies acquired	Cumulative Use Count # as at 7 March 2016
1-2	度假鼠的旅行日記	謝利連摩.史提頓	243	1 924
	尋找「紅鷹」之旅	謝利連摩.史提頓	243	612
3-5	牛仔. 第28冊, 但願如此	王司馬	239	244
	牛仔. 第29冊, 局部驟雨	王司馬	239	239
	牛仔. 第30冊, 做牛做馬	王司馬	239	257
6	激戰百魔山	關景峰	222	2 759
7-8	萬聖節謀殺案	關景峰	212	N.A.
	歌劇院的密室地圖	菲.史提頓	212	2 420
9-10	長城下的秘密寶藏	菲.史提頓	209	1 176
	追擊紅衣少女	麥曉帆	209	608

Remark:

- A total of 10 titles are included.
- The use count figures (#) for the above copies are the cumulative loan statistics generated by the Hong Kong Public Libraries' computer system on 7 March 2016.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-book collections (January to December 2015)**

Different service providers have used different statistical elements such as number of e-books consulted, searches, tracks played, browses by category, etc. to present the usage of their databases. The usage statistics of e-book collections of the Hong Kong Public Library provided by individual e-book database service providers in 2015 are tabulated below. Further breakdown of the usage statistics by means of access is not available.

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count
1	Apabi Chinese eBooks	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & borrowing)	74 610
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	8 851
3	ebrary Academic Complete	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	25 019
4-5	Safari Books Online (Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online)	No. of searches	10 060
6	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	No. of tracks played	33 635
7	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	No. of browses by category	25 567

Remark:

The 7 e-book collections currently contain about 220 000 Chinese and English e-books.

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