

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB206

(Question Serial No. 2583)

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:

How many e-books will be acquired by the public libraries in 2016-17? Please provide the details of the number and type of e-books acquired. Furthermore, does the Government have any plan to write off obsolete reference books?

Asked by: Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Hong Kong Public Libraries plans to acquire or subscribe to 8 e-book collections (covering about 240 000 titles). The newly acquired e-books include both Chinese and English items covering a wide range of subjects of general interests and leisure reading for adults and children, such as arts, business and finance, children literature, fictions, language and literature, medical and health, novels, science and technology, etc.

Regular and systematic weeding is conducted in public libraries to ensure the vitality and usefulness of the collections to the community. In general, library books will be written off and withdrawn from the collection when (a) the library items become worn out/damaged; or (b) the information contained is outdated, or when their reference or research value is lost in the case of reference collections.

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