

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB541

(Question Serial No. 4667)

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:

Regarding the provision of public library services, please provide the following information:

- (1) What were the sizes of the library stock and e-resources of major, district and small libraries in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?
- (2) What were the numbers of loans of books and e-resources of major, district and small libraries in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?
- (3) What are the maximum sizes of library stock of major, district and small libraries?
- (4) How many books were written off by major, district and small libraries in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?
- (5) Which libraries will replenish their stock and enrich their e-resources in 2016-17? What are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 14)

Reply:

- (1) The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) currently provides a network of 68 static libraries and 12 mobile libraries which are evenly spread over the territory of Hong Kong and inter-connected by an integrated automated library system. Users have convenient access to the catalogue of the HKPL's entire collection and enjoy a wide range of library services via the online and mobile platforms. They may also borrow and return library materials at any public libraries. Generally speaking, the library collections are planned and managed according to a five-tier structure with complementary roles: central library, major library, district library, small library and mobile library. The sizes of the library stock of major, district and small libraries in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are set out at the table below.

Type of Library	Number	Total Number of Library Stock ('000 items)		
		2013-14 (as at 31 March 2014)	2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016)
Major Library	6	3 015	3 213	3 314
District Library	30	5 312	5 465	5 791
Small Library	31	1 879	1 933	1 984

Unlike conventional library materials, e-resources including e-databases and e-book collections are hosted by vendors and licensed for library use at vendors' platforms through annual subscription or perpetual licence. These e-resources are procured for the library system as a whole for use by public through the HKPL's workstations or the Internet via remote access. The numbers of e-databases and e-book collections in 2013, 2014 and 2015 are provided in the table below.

	Number as at 31 December		
	2013	2014	2015
Total number of e-database	63	62	61
Total number of e-book collections (titles)	7 (186 500)	7 (206 300)	7 (221 800)

- (2) The total numbers of loans of books of major, district and small libraries in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 are set out at the table below.

Type of Library	Number	Total Number of Loans of Books ('000 volume)		
		2013-14 (as at 31 March 2014)	2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016)
Major Library	6	7 430	7 014	6 190
District Library	30	17 774	16 522	14 956
Small Library	31	6 440	6 367	5 445

The e-databases and e-book collections are procured for the library system as a whole and their usage statistics are at [Annexes I and II](#) respectively. Different service providers use different statistical elements, such as number of searches, tracks played, logins, enquiries, clicks, items browsed and transactions, to present the usage of their databases.

- (3) Library collections are planned and managed according to a five-tier structure with complementary roles: central library, major library, district library, small library and mobile library. For planning purposes, a new major, district and small library will be provided with an initial collection of 280 000, 140 000 and 40 000 respectively upon commissioning. The collections of individual libraries depend on their types, floor area and geographical characteristics, and are subject to on-going reviews and adjustments from time to time. Furthermore, the HKPL will set up a Central Reserve Stack in 2017-18 to support the rotation and transfer of library stock between libraries.

- (4) Weeding is an on-going process to ensure the vitality and usefulness of the collections to the community and to make room for new materials. The HKPL writes off unserviceable library books in accordance with the Disposal Procedures laid down in Government's Stores and Procurement Regulations. In general, library books will be written off when (i) the library items become worn out/damaged; or (ii) the information contained is outdated. Withdrawal of library materials is done according to the above stated criteria for the whole library collection. The number of library books withdrawn in the past 3 years are 600 000 volumes (2013-14), 400 000 volumes (2014-15) and 50 000 volumes (up to February 2016) respectively.
- (5) The HKPL will continue to replenish new library stock and enrich e-resources for all existing libraries. In 2016-17, the HKPL plans to acquire about 830 000 items of new print and audio-visual library materials as well as acquire or subscribe to 8 e-book collections (covering about 240 000 titles) and 63 e-databases, with a view to building up the basic stock for new libraries and replenishing the stock for the existing libraries. The estimated expenditure for the library materials in 2016-17 for each category of library materials is listed in the table below:

Category	Estimated no. of items/titles to be acquired/ subscribed	Estimated expenditure (\$'000)
Books (Note 1)	770 000 volumes	57,175
Audio-visual materials (Note 2)	60 000 items	11,220
Sub-total	830 000	
E-resources (Note 3)	8 e-book collections (about 240 000 titles) and 63 e-databases	13,100
Printed newspapers and periodicals	About 5 000 titles	21,300
Total		102,795 (Note 4)

Notes:

1. Includes the cost of book binding (i.e. \$3.135 million) in 2016-17.
2. Includes digitisation rights for selected visual materials.
3. E-resources are acquired on an annual subscription or perpetual licence basis.
4. The total cost does not include the estimated cost of \$0.6 million for digitisation of materials for the HKPL's digital library Multimedia Information System (MMIS). About 1 000 hours of audiovisual recordings and 90 000 pages of printed materials will be digitised for MMIS in 2016-17.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-databases (2013-2015)**

Item	Title of e-databases (in alphabetical order)	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count		
			2013	2014	2015
1	AccessScience *	No. of searches	2 368	3 155	2 871
2	Africa Development Indicators (ADI)	Free databases provided by Organisations of Depository Collections. No usage provided.	No statistics provided for these free databases.		
3	International Debt Statistics (IDS)				
4	World Development Indicators (WDI)				
5	ARTbibliographies Modern	No. of searches	2 721	6 875	6 678
6	Biography in Context *	No. of searches	3 991	9 871	9 218
7	BookData Online	No. of searches	50 953	53 661	40 671
8	Books & Authors *	No. of searches	4 348	4 783	4 102
9	Business Source Complete	No. of searches	3 026	4 485	5 791
10	China Journals Full-text Database *	No. of searches	20 374	39 770	50 135
11	China Doctor Dissertations Full-text Database *	No. of searches	5 281	7 917	6 676
12	China Master Theses Full-text Database *	No. of searches	4 213	6 287	5 947
13	China Standards Document Database	No. of searches	740	1 816	3 115
14	中國企業、公司及產品數據庫 #	No. of searches	1 749	3 026	2 506
15	Chinese Companies and Products Database (ceased subscription since March 2015)	No. of searches	939	1 087	204
16	Complete Classics Collection of Ancient China *	No. of enquiries	3 709	2 758	3 038
17	Design and Applied Arts Index	No. of searches	2 716	6 889	6 689
18	eLibrary Curriculum Edition (CE) *	No. of searches	6 465	11 959	11 114
19	Factiva.com	No. of items used	6 456	6 018	9 469
20	Global Book In Print	No. of searches	3 071	4 397	4 681
21	Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (GREENR) *	No. of searches	3 003	8 706	7 794
22	Grolier Online *	No. of searches	6 918	2 964	7 142
23	INFOBANK	No. of logins	847	3 151	3 042
24	International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP) Full Text	No. of searches	3 867	9 719	12 022
25	International Index to the Performing Arts (IIPA) Full Text	No. of searches	3 840	9 730	12 076
26	Kiss Holiday *	No. of logins	9 607	6 170	5 024

Item	Title of e-databases (in alphabetical order)	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count		
			2013	2014	2015
27	Mergent Online (ceased subscription since Oct 2014)	No. of searches	1 297	1 564	-
28	Music In Print Series	No. of searches	416	992	642
29	Naxos Music Library *	No. of tracks played	194 399	193 595	157 923
30	Naxos Music Library Jazz *	No. of tracks played	6 113	5 246	6 309
31	Naxos Video Library *	No. of streams played	1 214	3 635	2 452
32	Newtonkids Digital Museum *	No. of enquiries	1 428	1 151	797
33	OECD iLibrary	No. of sections/titles/ reports of publications downloaded	451	6 513	4 967
34	OmniFile Full Text Mega *	No. of searches	8 497	13 465	11 482
35	Opposing Viewpoints in Context *	No. of searches	3 908	9 561	8 731
36	OneSource (Global Business Browser)	No. of reports consulted	1 648	5 743	8 421
37	Passport	No. of searches	11 907	12 501	10 144
38- 55	ProQuest 5000 including <u>18 databases</u> (<i>ABI/INFORM Global, Accounting & Tax, Banking Information Source, Career and Technical Education, Health & Medical Complete, New York Times, Pharmaceutical News Index, ProQuest Asian Business and Reference, ProQuest Computing, ProQuest Education Journals, ProQuest European Business, ProQuest Religion, ProQuest Research Library, ProQuest Science Journals, ProQuest Social Science Journals, ProQuest Telecommunications, Sunday Times (London), The Times (London)</i>)	No. of searches	347 099	449 153	481 542
56	Road to IELTS - Academic Module *	No. of tracked activities	4 894	10 321	9 819
57	Road to IELTS - General Training Module *	No. of tracked activities	1 479	3 531	3 568
58	Science in Context *	No. of searches	3 881	11 000	9 635
59	SOSHOO	No. of logins	786	2 142	1 848
60	SPORTDiscus with Full Text *	No. of searches	4 770	12 359	12 559
61	Ulrichsweb	No. of searches	2 111	1 882	1 267
62	Westlaw China	No. of transactions	1 052	8 252	6 991
63	WiseNews	No. of clicks (browse & search)	6 577 953	4 468 323	4 330 295

Remarks:

* E-databases for remote access via website of the Hong Kong Public Libraries.

Only Chinese titles are available.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-book Collections (2013-2015)**

Item	Title of e-book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count		
			2013	2014	2015
1	Apabi Chinese eBooks	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & borrowing)	63 753	68 096	74 610
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	11 025	8 679	8 851
3	ebrary Academic Complete	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	24 868	26 315	25 019
4-5	Safari Books Online (Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online)	No. of searches	17 032	10 586	10 060
6	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	No. of tracks played	43 966	32 131	33 635
7	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	No. of browses by category	34 110	13 173	25 567

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