

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HAB522****(Question Serial No. 7045)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (5) Public LibrariesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

How many books were purchased and disposed of respectively in the past three years? What was the total expenditure involved? How were the books disposed of? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 680)Reply:

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. The number of books purchased and the expenditures in the past 3 years are set out in the table below.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Books Acquired (Items)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2013-14	690 000	50
2014-15	740 000	50
2015-16 (Estimated)	770 000	52

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books will be written off when (i) the library items become worn out/damaged; or (ii) the information contained is outdated. The numbers of library books disposed in the past 3 years were 600 000 volumes (2013-14), 400 000 volumes (2014-15) and 50 000 volumes (up to February 2016) respectively. The HKPL arranges disposal of unserviceable books by contracting paper recycling services.

The acquisition and disposal of books are an integral part of the duties of the HKPL and the manpower requirement is absorbed within the overall provision. The staff establishment for providing library 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.

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