

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB229****(Question Serial No. 1653)**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:

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) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the past financial year. What was the number of copies in the library collection, and what was the number of loans for the books in the financial year?

| | Titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans of the book in the financial year |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| General Works | | | |
| Philosophy | | | |
| Religion | | | |
| Social Sciences | | | |
| Language | | | |
| Natural Science | | | |
| Applied Science | | | |
| Arts | | | |
| Literature | | | |
| History | | | |
| Fiction | | | |
| Junior Fiction | | | |
| Picture Books | | | |

- (e) 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 rights?
- (f) Please list under the categories in the table below the number of books registered at the Books Registration Office in the past 3 financial years.

| | Number of registered Chinese books | Number of registered Chinese books published by local publishers | Number of registered English books | Number of registered English books published by local publishers | Overall number of registered books |
|---------|---|--|---|--|---|
| 2014-15 | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | | | | | |
| 2016-17 | | | | | |

- (g) Please provide information on the expenditures on e-books in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years; the loan of and means of access to e-books (e.g. online access, access in the libraries, etc.) in 2016-17; and the plan to promote e-books and the expenditure involved in 2017-18.
- (h) What were the staff establishment and expenditure for the provision of lending services in public libraries in the past year?
- (i) 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?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No.44)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from public libraries in 2016 were 37.3 million and 11.2 million respectively. The numbers of loans of locally published Chinese and English books in 2016 were 17.7 million and 0.8 million respectively.
- (b) The estimated expenditure in 2016-17 for purchase of books for the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) is about \$53 million, of which the estimated expenditures for Chinese and English books published in Hong Kong are \$12 million and \$1 million respectively. It is expected that the estimated expenditure for purchase of books and locally published books for 2017-18 will be at the similar level for 2016-17.
- (c) Due to system constraint and the time required for data compilation, the HKPL can only provide the information on the top 5 titles in terms of copies acquired by classification for adult and children books in 2016-17 in June 2017.
- (d) As the information is not readily available due to system constraint, the HKPL can only provide information on the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the calendar year of 2016 and in 8 categories of books namely, Adult Chinese fiction/non-fiction; Junior Chinese fiction/non-fiction; Adult English fiction/non-fiction; Junior English fiction/non-fiction. Details are at **Annex I**.
- (e) The HKPL follows the principles laid down in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 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.

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. At present, the guidelines promulgated by the IFLA do not require the adoption of a Public Lending Right system and there is no consensus among public libraries internationally whether such a system should be adopted.

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. 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.

- (f) The numbers of books registered with the Books Registration Office in the past 3 financial years are provided in the table below.

| | Number of registered books - Chinese | Number of registered books - English | Number of registered books - Bilingual, other languages and government publications | Overall number of registered books |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 2014-15 | 9 840 | 2 674 | 2 271 | 14 785 |
| 2015-16 | 9 858 | 3 148 | 2 279 | 15 285 |
| 2016-17 (as at February 2017) | 8 139 | 2 282 | 2 440 | 12 861 |

Remark: All the registered books are published by local publishers

- (g) The estimated expenditure on the acquisition of e-book collections in 2016-17 is \$4.2 million, representing a 20% increase over that in 2015-16. The budget for 2017-18 will be maintained at a similar level. We will continue to acquire about 20 000 copies of e-books on various subjects provided by publishers in Hong Kong, Taiwan, the UK and USA to meet the users' needs. Usage statistics of e-book collections are at **Annex II**. The HKPL will continue to promote its e-resources to various sectors of the community by regularly organising education and extension activities, library visits by schools/organisations, briefing sessions on electronic information, "School Culture Day", and through customer liaison groups, teacher liaison groups as well as paying visits to schools/community groups/organisations. The cost will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.
- (h) The staff establishment for providing library services, including lending services, under Programme (5): Public Libraries as at 1 April 2016 was 1 422 and the estimated staff cost for 2016-17 is \$493 million.

- (i) 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. In 2016-17, the estimated expenditure for purchase of music and video materials is about \$8.5 million.

Separately, 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 the public libraries. The total amount that the Government paid for the copyrights of music and video materials to the relevant licensing bodies in 2016-17 is about \$0.2 million.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Top 10 books in terms of circulation in 2016

Table 1 (Adult Chinese fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | 射雕英雄傳 ⁽¹⁾ | 882 | 10 030 |
| 2. | 神鵰俠侶 ⁽¹⁾ | 893 | 8 280 |
| 3. | 笑傲江湖 ⁽¹⁾ | 740 | 6 747 |
| 4. | 天龍八部 ⁽¹⁾ | 828 | 6 636 |
| 5. | 鹿鼎記 ⁽¹⁾ | 865 | 6 632 |
| 6. | 倚天屠龍記 ⁽¹⁾ | 768 | 6 510 |
| 7. | 書劍恩仇錄 ⁽¹⁾ | 854 | 5 824 |
| 8. | 大宅 | 207 | 5 484 |
| 9. | 有你,沒有你 | 203 | 5 427 |
| 10. | 雪山飛狐 ⁽¹⁾ | 877 | 5 395 |

Note

(1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)

Table 2 (Adult Chinese non-fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1. | 香港中學文憑考試.中國語文 ⁽¹⁾ | 1 009 | 12 933 |
| 2. | 東京食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 701 | 12 859 |
| 3. | 京都 大阪+神戶 奈良 滋賀食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 601 | 11 305 |
| 4. | 日本 大阪 ⁽¹⁾ | 524 | 11 303 |
| 5. | 新加坡+聖淘沙 烏節路 小印度食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 595 | 10 221 |
| 6. | 九州食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 509 | 10 163 |
| 7. | 日本中部：名古屋 金沢 高山 白川鄉食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 441 | 9 692 |
| 8. | 首爾+濟州 釜山 全境遊：食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾ | 405 | 9 161 |
| 9. | 日本 東京 ⁽¹⁾ | 518 | 9 033 |
| 10. | 日本 北海道：札幌，小樽，旭川，登別，洞爺湖 ⁽¹⁾ | 587 | 8 777 |

Note

(1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)

Table 3 (Junior Chinese fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | 小王子 ⁽¹⁾ | 1 838 | 13 038 |
| 2. | 西遊記 ⁽¹⁾ | 811 | 7 367 |
| 3. | 三國演義 ⁽¹⁾ | 740 | 6 601 |
| 4. | 一千零一夜 / 天方夜譚 ⁽¹⁾ | 1 536 | 6 230 |
| 5. | 度假鼠的旅行日記 ⁽²⁾ | 256 | 5 513 |
| 6. | 水滸傳 ⁽¹⁾ | 828 | 5 331 |
| 7. | 綠野仙蹤 / 綠野仙踪 ⁽¹⁾ | 1 152 | 5 265 |
| 8. | 紅樓夢 ⁽¹⁾ | 764 | 5 234 |
| 9. | 愛麗絲夢遊仙境 ⁽¹⁾ | 946 | 5 193 |
| 10. | 神探福爾摩斯 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | 493 | 4 584 |

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with highest circulation will be provided.

Table 4 (Junior Chinese non-fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1. | 魔雪奇緣 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Disney) | 302 | 5 445 |
| 2. | 迷你多啦,放心交給它! | 276 | 4 857 |
| 3. | 老夫子精選系列. 第267冊 ⁽²⁾ (老夫子精選系列) | 190 | 4 712 |
| 4. | 大雄的人魚大海戰 ⁽²⁾ (多啦A夢彩色電影版) | 263 | 4 655 |
| 5. | 誠實 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (幼兒德育故事叢書) | 356 | 4 641 |
| 6. | 湯馬仕的特別任務 ⁽²⁾ (湯馬仕小火車品德故事集) | 204 | 4 470 |
| 7. | Q小子生活筆記 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (智fun系列) | 296 | 4 466 |
| 8. | 我很生氣 ⁽²⁾ (幼兒情緒故事叢書) | 210 | 4 382 |
| 9. | 漢堡包和叉燒包 ⁽²⁾ (新雅.繪本館) | 202 | 4 328 |
| 10. | 我會自己吃飯 ⁽²⁾ (幼兒自理故事叢書) | 205 | 4 309 |

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with highest circulation will be provided.

Table 5 (Adult English fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1. | The five people you meet in heaven | 180 | 2 251 |
| 2. | The time keeper | 113 | 1 517 |
| 3. | For one more day | 125 | 1 516 |
| 4. | The Great Gatsby ⁽¹⁾ | 184 | 1 276 |
| 5. | The hobbit, or, There and back again ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Lord of the rings) | 152 | 1 187 |
| 6. | The first phone call from heaven | 87 | 1 124 |
| 7. | The adventures of Sherlock Holmes ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Red classics Sherlock Holmes) | 150 | 1 062 |
| 8. | Inferno : a novel | 85 | 932 |
| 9. | Nineteen eighty-four ⁽¹⁾ | 65 | 826 |
| 10. | The girl on the train | 63 | 819 |

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with highest circulation will be provided.

Table 6 (Adult English non-fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. English language ⁽¹⁾ | 997 | 14 342 |
| 2. | HKALE. AS use of English ⁽¹⁾ | 668 | 3 087 |
| 3. | Advanced taxation in Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾ | 214 | 2 058 |
| 4. | Lonely Planet Japan ⁽¹⁾ | 209 | 1 816 |
| 5. | Hong Kong company law ⁽¹⁾ | 254 | 1 705 |
| 6. | Thinking, fast and slow | 102 | 1 655 |
| 7. | HKCEE. Mathematics ⁽¹⁾ | 410 | 1 644 |
| 8. | Tuesdays with Morrie : an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson ⁽¹⁾ | 169 | 1 628 |
| 9. | Lonely Planet Scandinavia ⁽¹⁾ | 132 | 1 541 |
| 10. | Business writing for Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾ | 216 | 1 521 |

Note

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)

Table 7 (Junior English fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Charlie and the chocolate factory ⁽¹⁾ | 440 | 5 698 |
| 2. | Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Harry Potter series) | 373 | 4 409 |
| 3. | Charlie and the great glass elevator ⁽¹⁾ | 349 | 3 614 |
| 4. | George's marvellous medicine ⁽¹⁾ | 296 | 3 611 |
| 5. | The BFG ⁽¹⁾ | 230 | 3 410 |
| 6. | The giraffe and the pelly and me ⁽¹⁾ | 279 | 3 349 |
| 7. | Matilda ⁽¹⁾ | 291 | 3 307 |
| 8. | The search for treasure : the sixth adventure in the Kingdom of Fantasy ⁽²⁾ (Geronimo Stilton series) | 152 | 3 112 |
| 9. | The secret of the snow ⁽²⁾ (Thea Stilton special edition series) | 153 | 2 845 |
| 10. | The Twits ⁽¹⁾ | 235 | 2 828 |

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with highest circulation will be provided.

Table 8 (Junior English non-fiction)

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1. | A sea mystery ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Oxford reading tree) | 350 | 6 152 |
| 2. | Mr. Tickle ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Mr. Men, my complete collection) | 503 | 4 677 |
| 3. | Thomas goes fishing ⁽²⁾ (Learning ladder) | 191 | 3 806 |
| 4. | Thomas and the Easter Egg Hunt ⁽²⁾ (My first railway library) | 150 | 3 579 |
| 5. | Thomas and the circus ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Thomas & friends The Thomas TV series!) | 208 | 3 521 |
| 6. | The golden touch ⁽²⁾ (Read at home) | 278 | 2 985 |
| 7. | The story of Thomas the Tank Engine | 145 | 2 977 |
| 8. | Little Miss Princess ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Little Miss, my complete collection) | 222 | 2 934 |
| 9. | The gingerbread man ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Read it yourself with Ladybird) | 201 | 2 860 |

| Item | Title | Number of copies in the library collection | Number of loans |
|-------------|--|---|------------------------|
| 10. | The treasure chest ⁽²⁾ (Oxford story tree) | 134 | 2 709 |

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.)
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with highest circulation will be provided.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-book collections (January to December 2016)

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 2016 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) | 59 578 |
| 2. | eBooks on EBSCOhost | No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download) | 17 185 |
| 3. | ebrary Academic Complete | No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download) | 21 178 |
| 4. | HyRead ebook (launched in June 2016) | No. of e-Books consulted (online reading, borrowing & trial) | 116 649 |
| 5. | Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book) | No. of tracks played | 41 793 |
| 6.-7. | Safari Books Online (Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online) | No. of searches | 10 084 |
| 8. | Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese | No. of browses by category | 22 403 |

Note

The 8 e-book collections currently contain about 243 000 Chinese and English e-books.

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