

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB248**

**(Question Serial No. 0873)**

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 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?
- 2) What were the numbers of loans of books and e-resources of major, district and small libraries in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?
- 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 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?
- 5) Which libraries will replenish their stock and enrich their e-resources in 2017-18? What are the estimated expenditures involved?
- 6) Regarding the Government's plan to launch, on a trial basis, 3 self-service library units, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories to provide round-the-clock services for borrowing and return of library materials, what are the estimated date of implementation and the details of the plan?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No.111)

Reply:

- 1) The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) currently provides a network of static libraries and mobile libraries throughout the territory according to a five-tier structure with complementary roles: central library, major library, district library, small library and mobile library. All libraries are 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 sizes of the library stock of major, district and small libraries in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are set out in the table below.

Type of Library	Number#	Total Number of Library Stock in Each Type of Library ('000 items)		
		2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015-16 (as at 31 March 2016)	2016-17 (as at 28 February 2017)
Major Library	6	3 213	3 320	3 352
District Library	30	5 465	5 795	5 808
Small Library	32	1 933	1 984	2 045

# Excluding the Yuen Chau Kok Public Library, which will be fully commissioned on 30 March 2017, and the Hong Kong Central Library.

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 2014, 2015 and 2016 are provided in the table below.

	Number as at 31 December		
	2014	2015	2016
Total number of e-databases	62	61	65
Total number of e-book collections (titles)	7 (206 300)	7 (221 800)	8 (243 000)

- (2) The total numbers of loans of books of major, district and small libraries in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are set out in the table below.

Type of Library	Number#	Total Number of Loans of Books ('000 items )		
		2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)	2015-16 (as at 31 March 2016)	2016-17 (as at 31 January 2017)
Major Library	6	7 014	6 760	5 160
District Library	30	16 522	16 288	12 641
Small Library	32	6 367	5 903	4 661

# Excluding the Yuen Chau Kok Public Library, which will be fully commissioned on 30 March 2017, and the Hong Kong Central Library.

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.

- (3) 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 400 000 items (2014-15), 360 000 items (2015-16) and 110 000 items (up to February 2017) respectively.
- (5) The HKPL will continue to replenish new library stock and enrich e-resources for all existing libraries. In 2017-18, the HKPL plans to acquire about 830 000 items of new print and audio-visual library materials as well as acquire or subscribe to 10 e-book collections (covering about 260 000 titles) and 64 e-databases, with a view to building up the basic stock for new libraries and replenishing the stock for the existing libraries. The estimated expenditures for the library materials in 2017-18 for each category of library materials are listed in the table below.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated No. of Items/Titles to Be Acquired/Subscribed</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)</b>
Books <sup>(1)</sup>	770 000 items	56,595
Audio-visual materials <sup>(2)</sup>	60 000 items	10,600
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>830 000</b>	
E-resources <sup>(3)</sup>	10 e-book collections (about 260 000 titles) and 64 e-databases	13,000
Printed newspapers and Periodicals	About 5 000 titles	22,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>102,795 <sup>(4)</sup></b>

#### Notes

- (1) Includes the cost of book binding (i.e. \$3.346 million) in 2017-18.
- (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 \$200,000 for digitisation of materials for the HKPL's digital library Multimedia Information System (MMIS). About 800 hours of audio-visual recordings and 90 000 pages of printed materials will be digitised for the MMIS in 2017-18.

- (6) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department plans to provide on a trial basis 3 self-service library units, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow and away from existing libraries. The 3 identified locations are in the Eastern District, Sha Tin District and Yau Tsim Mong District respectively. The self-service units will provide round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. We plan to launch the service in the second half of 2017-18.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries**  
**Usage of e-databases (2014-2016)**

Item	Title of Online Databases (in alphabetical order)	Statistical Elements Adopted #	Use Count		
			2014	2015	2016
1	AccessScience *	No. of searches	3 155	2 871	2 338
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	6 875	6 678	7 537
6	Biography in Context *	No. of searches	9 871	9 218	9 531
7	BookData Online	No. of searches	53 661	40 671	53 791
8	Books & Authors *	No. of searches	4 783	4 102	4 511
9	Business Source Complete	No. of searches	4 485	5 791	7 600
10	China Academic Journals Full-text Database (CJFD)*	No. of searches	39 770	50 135	64 052
11	China Doctoral Dissertations Full-text Database *	No. of searches	7 917	6 676	43 529
12	China Masters' Theses Full-text Database *	No. of searches	6 287	5 947	43 247
13	China Standards Document Database	No. of searches	1 816	3 115	3 577
14	Chinese Companies and Products Database (ceased subscription since Mar 2015)	No. of searches	1 087	204	-
15	Chinese Companies and Products Database (CECDB) (Traditional Chinese Version)	No. of searches	3 026	2 506	3 547
16	Complete Classics Collection of Ancient China *	No. of enquiries	2 758	3 038	2 257
17	Design and Applied Arts Index	No. of searches	6 889	6 689	6 695
18	eLibrary Curriculum Edition (CE) *	No. of searches	11 959	11 114	10 535
19	Factiva.com	No. of items used	6 018	9 469	14 757
20	Global Books In Print	No. of searches	4 397	4 681	3 159
21	Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (GREENR) *	No. of searches	8 706	7 794	7 796
22	Grolier Online *	No. of searches	2 964	7 142	7 163

Item	Title of Online Databases (in alphabetical order)	Statistical Elements Adopted #	Use Count		
			2014	2015	2016
23	HyRead e-Magazine * (subscription started in Jun 2016)	No. of consulted	-	-	73 351
24	INFOBANK	No. of logins	3 151	3 042	5 003
25	Kiss Holiday *	No. of logins	6 170	5 024	7 724
26	Mergent Online (ceased subscription since Oct 2014)	No. of searches	1 564	-	-
27	Music In Print Series (ceased subscription since 2016)	No. of searches	992	642	-
28	Music Periodicals Database	No. of searches	9 719	12 022	10 837
29	Naxos Music Library *	No. of tracks played	193 595	157 923	152 358
30	Naxos Music Library Jazz *	No. of tracks played	5 246	6 309	10 581
31	Naxos Video Library *	No. of streams played	3 635	2 452	1 643
32	Newtonkids Digital Museum*	No. of enquiries	1 151	797	588
33	OECD iLibrary	No. of sections/titles/ reports of publications downloaded	6 513	4 967	1 517
34	OmniFile Full Text Mega *	No. of searches	13 465	11 482	11 606
35	OneSource (Global Business Browser)	No. of reports consulted	5 743	8 421	8 491
36	Opposing Viewpoints in Context*	No. of searches	9 561	8 731	8 449
37	Passport	No. of searches	12 501	10 144	10 362
38	Performing Arts Periodicals Database	No. of searches	9 730	12 076	10 737
39-56	ProQuest 5000 including 18 databases: ABI/INFORM Global, Accounting & Tax, Banking Information Source, ProQuest Career and Technical Education, ProQuest 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)	No. of searches	449 153	481 542	454 719
57	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: South China Morning Post (1903-1996) (subscription started in Mar 2016)	No. of searches	-	-	6 613

Item	Title of Online Databases (in alphabetical order)	Statistical Elements Adopted #	Use Count		
			2014	2015	2016
58	ProQuest International Newsstand (subscription started in Apr 2016)	No. of searches	-	-	5 964
59	ProQuest Newsstand: South China Morning Post (1993-present) (subscription started in Mar 2016)	No. of searches	-	-	5 236
60	Road to IELTS - Academic Module *	No. of tracked activities	10 321	9 819	7 962
61	Road to IELTS - General Training Module *	No. of tracked activities	3 531	3 568	4 412
62	Science in Context *	No. of searches	11 000	9 635	8 759
63	SOSHOO	No. of logins	2 142	1 848	2 660
64	SPORTDiscus with Full Text *	No. of searches	12 359	12 559	14 240
65	Tense Buster * (subscription started in Jun 2016)	No. of tracked activities	-	-	6 703
66	Ulrichsweb	No. of searches	1 882	1 267	987
67	Westlaw China	No. of transactions	8 252	6 991	6 431
68	WiseNews	No. of clicks (browse & search)	4 468 323	4 330 295	6 479 465

**Remarks:**

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

# The total usage of e-databases is unavailable as 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.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries**  
**Usage of e-Book Collections (2014-2016)**

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count		
			2014	2015	2016
1	Apabi Chinese eBooks	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & borrowing)	68 096	74 610	59 578
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	8 679	8 851	17 185
3	ebrary Academic Complete	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading & download)	26 315	25 019	21 178
4	HyRead ebook (launched in June 2016)	No. of e-Books consulted (online reading, borrowing and trial)	-	-	116,649
5	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	No. of tracks played	32 131	33 635	41 793
6-7	Safari Books Online (Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online)	No. of searches	10 586	10 060	10 084
8	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	No. of browses by category	13 173	25,567	22 403

Remarks:

The total usage of e-book collections is unavailable as different service providers use different statistical elements, such as number of searches, tracks played and browses by category, to present the usage.

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