

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB251

(Question Serial No. 1853)

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:

The Cultural and Historical Resources Corners (CHRCs) of 18 districts promoted by the public libraries are so far effective in enhancing public awareness of the history of their respective communities. However, the amount of resources devoted for the CHRCs varies greatly from district to district, and the books and publications on shelf in the CHRCs are not available for loans. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will additional lending copies be put on shelf to facilitate borrowing by the public in the coming 3 years? If yes, what is the implementation timetable for the 18 districts? How many resources will be devoted?
2. Will the Government step up the collection of oral history materials? If yes, how many resources will be devoted? What are the objectives for the coming 3 years? If no, will the above proposal be included in a CHRC extension project?
3. Will the archives on Hong Kong's culture and history which have been recently declassified by the British authority be included in the collection of the CHRCs? If yes, how many resources will be devoted? What is the specific timetable for the coming 3 years? If no, will the above proposal be included in the future development of the CHRCs?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has set up a Cultural and Historical Resources Corner (CHRC) at a selected public library in each of the 18 districts as a one-stop reference repository of individual districts on subjects such as culture, history and community development. At present, the CHRCs' collection comprises more than 10 000 items, including books, maps, audio-visual and multimedia materials and leaflets. The number of library materials for individual CHRC varies, depending on the district

characteristics and the availability of materials through community donation or procurement. In addition to the reference collection of the CHRC, additional copies of the materials are purchased for lending purposes if considered suitable and available in the market. The LCSD will explore further means to facilitate the searching of materials and borrowing of the lending copies by users of the CHRC and other libraries.

Publications on local oral history are available in the public libraries for reference and borrowing. In addition, the Hong Kong Public Libraries' Multimedia Information System (MMIS) also provides digitised materials on Hong Kong and all districts. For instance, the "Local Districts Profile" digital collection currently contains about 7 400 items of information. The CHRC users enjoy access to the MMIS by using the workstations at the CHRC.

The purpose of setting up the CHRC is to promote public interest in and understanding of local culture and history of the 18 districts. The LCSD has no plan to acquire historical archives held by other jurisdictions for inclusion in the CHRC. To complement the CHRC, the LCSD will set up display of library materials on individual district's culture and history in selected libraries from the end of 2017. Costs of purchasing the materials have been included in the annual provision for library materials.

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