

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB500****(Question Serial No. 3609)**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:

- (a) What were the actual expenditures of all public libraries in Hong Kong in the past 5 years? What were the average number of users and the relevant staff establishment in the past 5 years?
- (b) What percentages did the registered borrowers of all public libraries in Hong Kong account for the population in the past 5 years?
- (c) What are the details of new library projects under planning or construction (e.g. expected service areas, expected number of users, etc.)?
- (d) What are the details of the projects on improvement or enhancement of various library services and the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon IP Kin-yuen (Member Question No. 71)Reply:

- (a) The expenditures of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) and the staff establishment for providing library services under Programme (5): Public Libraries in the past 5 years are as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Estimated)
Expenditure (\$ million)	851.0	874.6	979.8	1,060.5	1,141.9
Total number of staff establishment as at 1 April	1 128	1 198	1 291	1 339	1 422

The increase in staff establishment was mainly due to the opening of new libraries and the replacement of non-civil service contract positions in libraries which have long-term service needs.

The average attendance figure of the HKPL of the past 5 years was about 38.85 million per year.

- (b) The numbers of registered borrowers of the HKPL and the estimated population in the past 5 years are set out below:

	2012 (million)	2013 (million)	2014 (million)	2015 (million)	2016 (million)
Number of registered borrowers	4.09	4.19	4.28	4.37	4.45
Estimated population ^{Note}	7.14	7.18	7.23	7.30	7.35
Percentage of registered borrowers	57%	58%	59%	60%	61%

Note: Based on the provisional figures of the mid-year of population of respective years and the Hong Kong Population Projections 2012-2041 / 2015-2064, issued by the Census and Statistics Department.

- (c) 3 libraries (including 1 new library and 2 reprovisioned libraries) are under construction. Details are set out below:

Project	District ^{Note}	Progress
Reprovisioning of the Yuen Long Public Library (a district library) as part of the capital works project under “49RG - Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long”	Yuen Long	Interior fitting-out work of the library is underway and the library is expected to be open to the public in mid-2017.
Reconstruction of North Lamma Public Library (a small library) under the Signature Project Scheme of Islands District – “Yung Shue Wan Library cum Heritage and Cultural Showroom, Lamma Island”	Islands	The works are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Project	District ^{Note}	Progress
Provision of a new district library in the North West Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6 under the capital works project “62RG – Sports centre, 5-a-side soccer pitch and public library facilities at Northwest Kowloon Reclamation Site 6, Sham Shui Po”	Sham Shui Po	The works are expected to be completed in 2020.

Note: In addition to serving the community in the vicinity, these libraries also benefit all library users who may borrow and return library materials at any public libraries.

Besides, the following 4 library projects are under planning, and resources will be sought in accordance with the established mechanism –

- (i) expansion and renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library;
 - (ii) provision of a new district library in the proposed Government Joint User Complex at Lei King Wan;
 - (iii) reprovisioning of Yau Ma Tei Public Library; and
 - (iv) reprovisioning of Sau Mau Ping Public Library.
- (d) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has been devoting efforts in enhancing its services and facilities to meet the community’s needs for knowledge, information, self-learning and continuous education, as well as the constructive use of leisure time. With a view to further promoting public library services and nurturing a reading culture in the community, the LCSD will implement the following measures in 2017-18:
- (i) planning and organising a wide variety of reading activities at the territory-wide and district levels for readers of different age groups. Thematic panels and roving exhibitions of books with tie-in recommended booklists are scheduled at various libraries. In 2017-18, the LCSD has earmarked \$2.4 million for organising these reading activities;
 - (ii) forging closer partnership with the District Councils (DCs) and local bodies. In 2017-18, the LCSD will continue to secure funds from the DCs for organising diversified extension activities to sustain the interest of reading in the community, step up its block loan service by further exploring different types of organisations for arranging block loans or setting up community libraries that serve its specific target groups, such as the elderly, ethnic minorities, youths and special groups. Wider publicity will be arranged to reach out to the local communities and organisations promoting library services and collections including e-resources to various sectors of the community, cost of which has been absorbed in the annual provision;
 - (iii) connecting actively with educational bodies including the Education Bureau, schools, parent-teacher associations, nursery institutions, etc. to explore the reading needs/interests of children and seek collaborative opportunities in block

loan service and extension activities in encouraging lifelong learning and cultivating reading habits among them;

- (iv) replenishing new library stock and enriching e-resources for all existing libraries by planning to acquire about 830 000 items of new print and audio-visual library materials in 2017-18; to acquire or subscribe to 10 e-book collections (covering about 260 000 titles) and 64 e-databases; and to enhance the digitised collection in 2017-18. The estimated expenditure on the acquisition of library materials in 2017-18 is \$102.8 million; and
- (v) leveraging on the use of new and information technology to offer more convenient public library services to the public via the on-line and mobile platforms; and planning to launch 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, in the second half of 2017-18, to provide round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. The estimated expenditure for the procurement of equipment and related IT services is about \$7.8 million, excluding the costs of site preparation. The LCSD has earmarked \$2.4 million for the daily operation and maintenance of the self-service library units in 2017-18.

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