

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HAB535****(Question Serial No. 6293)**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:

One of the tasks of the Department is to strengthen the library collection to provide a balanced mix of library materials for free use by the public. Please provide the following information:

- (a) What were the types and languages of the library collection items newly acquired and the total expenditures involved over the past 5 years? Please provide information in the table below:

Year	Number of newly acquired library items in simplified Chinese characters	Proportion of newly acquired library items in simplified Chinese characters	Expenditure on newly acquired library items in simplified Chinese characters	Number of newly acquired library items in traditional Chinese characters	Proportion of newly acquired library items in traditional Chinese characters	Expenditure on newly acquired library items in traditional Chinese characters	Number of newly acquired library items in English	Proportion of newly acquired library items in English	Expenditure on newly acquired library items in English
2014-15									
2015-16									
2016-17									
2017-18 (Estimate)									

- (b) What is the distribution of the library collection by type and language at present? Please provide information in the table below:

Number of library items in simplified Chinese characters	Proportion of library items in simplified Chinese characters	Number of library items in traditional Chinese characters	Proportion of library items in traditional Chinese characters	Number of library items in English	Proportion of library items in English	Number of library items in other languages	Proportion of library items in other languages

- (c) What was the distribution of library items written off by public libraries by type and language over the past 3 years? Please provide information in the table below:

Year	Number of written off library items in simplified Chinese characters	Proportion of written off library items in simplified Chinese characters	Number of written off library items in traditional Chinese characters	Proportion of written off library items in traditional Chinese characters	Number of written off library items in English	Proportion of written off library items in English	Number of written off library items in other languages	Proportion of written off library items in other languages
2014-15								
2015-16								
2016-17								
2017-18 (Estimate)								

- (d) Is the Department planning to introduce items in other languages into the library collections for ethnic minorities? How many library items are suitable for ethnic minorities at present?
- (e) Has the Department introduced any braille book and audio book for lending to persons in need? How many library items are suitable for visually impaired or hearing impaired persons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

- (a) The total expenditure in acquiring library materials and details on the acquisition of printed books in traditional Chinese characters, simplified Chinese characters and English, as well as non-print materials, over the past 5 years are set out at **Annex I**.

In 2017-18, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) plans to acquire about 830 000 items of new books and non-print materials at a total of about \$63.85 million, among which Chinese books, English books and non-print materials are about 580 000 items, 190 000 items and 60 000 items respectively. Breakdown on the numbers of traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters books to be acquired in 2017-18 is not available at this stage.

- (b) As at 31 December 2016, the HKPL had a collection of 12.52 million items of print materials (books) and 1.83 million items of non-print materials (multimedia materials). The HKPL focuses on acquiring print materials in the 2 main languages of Chinese and English, where the numbers of Chinese and English books in the library collections of the HKPL were about 8.83 million and 3.69 million, accounting for 70.5% and 29.5% respectively of the total number of printed books. Acquisition of print materials in other languages will also be considered if they are written in bilingual, with one of the languages being Chinese or English.

As the HKPL handles Chinese books as a single category without differentiation between traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters, no breakdown figures on their distribution are available. The multimedia materials are not differentiated by languages in the collection and so breakdown figures by languages are also not available.

- (c) The total numbers of Chinese books, English books and non-print materials withdrawn in the past 3 years are at **Annex II**. Breakdown on other library materials, Chinese books in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters, and books in other languages is not available. Information on the library items to be withdrawn in 2017-18 is also not available at this stage.
- (d) The HKPL currently subscribes to about 110 titles of newspapers and periodicals published in the languages of various ethnic minorities. These titles, covering the information on various subjects including current affairs, language learning, sports and fitness, leisure and entertainment, etc, are available at the Hong Kong Central Library and other 11 branch libraries.
- (e) At present, the HKPL has about 141 000 number of physical audio books and 600 items of braille books, and has also acquired or subscribed to 8 e-book collections, through which members of the public may make use of the Internet workstations in static libraries that are equipped with Cantonese and English voice synthesizer software to read about 148 400 e-books including 1 500 audio e-books. We will continue to identify more physical audio books and suitable audio e-books in the market to meet the needs of the people with special needs.

# Annex I to Reply Serial No. HAB535

## Acquisition of library materials by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in the past 5 years

Financial Year	Total Expenditure on Acquisition of Library Materials (\$ million) <sup>(1)</sup>	Acquisition of Chinese Books						Acquisition of English Books			Acquisition of Non-print materials <sup>(4)</sup>		
		Traditional Chinese <sup>(2)</sup>			Simplified Chinese <sup>(2)</sup>								
		Items ('000)	Proportion <sup>(3)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Items ('000)	Proportion <sup>(3)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Items ('000)	Proportion <sup>(3)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Items ('000)	Proportion <sup>(3)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2012-13	88.47	471	57.8	20.64	63	7.7	2.67	210	25.8	29.29	71	8.7	10.77
2013-14	87.49	445	59.8	19.25	51	6.9	2.21	195	26.2	28.61	53	7.1	9.88
2014-15	90.16	486	60.2	21.58	31	3.8	1.62	223	27.6	27.18	68	8.4	11.49
2015-16	97.34	528	63.6	23.83	54	6.5	2.07	192	23.1	26.68	56	6.8	11.57
2016-17 (Estimated)	97.87	530	63.6	23.88	39	4.7	1.62	209	25.1	27.64	55	6.6	10.55

### Notes

- (1) Library materials include printed books, non-print materials, newspapers, periodicals, e-resources, etc., excluding the cost of book binding.
- (2) Estimate figures based on the number of Chinese books acquired through the relevant contract suppliers of the HKPL per annum.
- (3) Proportion to the total number of Chinese books, English books and non-printed materials acquired in the respective financial year.
- (4) Non-print materials refer to multimedia materials.

**Total number of Chinese books, English books and non-print materials<sup>(1)</sup> withdrawn in the past 3 years**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Chinese books withdrawn ('000 items)</b>	<b>Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)</b>	<b>Number of English books withdrawn ('000 items)</b>	<b>Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)</b>	<b>Number of Non-print materials withdrawn ('000 items)</b>	<b>Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)</b>
2014-15	308	68.0	94	20.8	51	11.2
2015-16	268	67.7	95	24.0	33	8.3
2016-17 (up to February 2017)	87	71.3	27	22.1	8	6.6

Note

(1) Non-print materials refer to multimedia materials.

(2) Proportion to the total number of Chinese books, English books and non-print materials withdrawn in the respective financial year.

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