

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB540

(Question Serial No. 4526)

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 book acquisition and the acquisition of books recommended for purchase by the public, please inform this Committee of:

1. the expenditure on acquisition of books recommended for purchase by the public and the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure on acquisition over the past 3 years, whether the expenditure will increase or decrease in the next 3 years, and the criteria for increasing or decreasing the expenditure;
2. the categories of books recommended for purchase by the public;
3. the companies responsible for making acquisitions for the library in their capacity as outsourced service providers and the value of the orders placed over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (Member Question No. 155)

Reply:

1. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) welcomes suggestions for book purchase put forward by members of the public, which will be considered having regard to the collection development principles and strategies, so as to enrich its collections. In 2016, over 95% of the suggestions for book purchase were accepted by the HKPL, representing about one-fifth of the total number of titles acquired.

Information on the expenditure on acquisition of books recommended for purchase by the public and the percentage of such expenditure against the total expenditure on acquisition is not available. The total expenditures on acquisition of books and the total numbers of books acquired in the past 3 years are set out below:

Financial year	Total expenditure on acquisition of books (\$ million)^{Note}	Total number of books acquired (’000 items)
2014-15	50.38	740
2015-16	52.58	774
2016-17 (Estimated)	53.14	778

Note: Excluding the cost of book binding.

In 2017-18, the HKPL plans to acquire about 0.77 million items of new books at an estimated expenditure of \$53.25 million. The number of books acquired in response to the recommendation by the public depends on the number of suggestions received and the number of titles suitable for acquisition in accordance with the collection development principles and strategies.

- The following table shows the respective numbers of titles of Chinese and English books suggested by members of the public and acquired by the HKPL in the past 3 years:

Year	Chinese books (no. of titles)		English books (no. of titles)	
	Suggested for purchase	Added as library collection	Suggested for purchase	Added as library collection
2014	6 700	6 080	2 730	2 470
2015	6 080	5 770	2 300	2 200
2016	7 800	7 470	3 430	3 280

- The details of the contracts for the supply of books in the past 3 years are provided at **Annex**.

Contracts for the supply of books from 2012 to 2016

Year of contract awarded	Description	Duration	Contractor	Contract value (\$ million)
2012	English books published in North America	3 years	Baker & Taylor, Inc.	44.4
2012	English books published in Europe	3 years	Times Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited	38.2
2012	English books published in Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of Asia	3 years	Times Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited	9.1
2013	Chinese books published in the Mainland	3 years	China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation	7.5
2013	Chinese books published in Hong Kong, Macau and places other than the Mainland and Taiwan	3 years	Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited	36.7
2013	Chinese books published in Taiwan	3 years	Cite (H.K.) Publishing Group Limited	34.4
2015	English books published in North America	3 years	Baker & Taylor, Inc.	44.4
2015	English books published in Europe	3 years	Times Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited	38.2
2015	English books published in Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of Asia	28 months	Times Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited	7.1
2016	Chinese books published in the Mainland	3 years	China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation	7.0
2016	Chinese books published in Hong Kong, Macau and places other than the Mainland and Taiwan	3 years	Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited	40.2
2016	Chinese books published in Taiwan	3 years	Cite (H.K.) Publishing Group Limited	37.0