

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1063)

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:

Given the popularity of e-books in recent years, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) What percentage do e-books account for in the entire library collection?
- b) How were the loans of e-books by registered borrowers in the past 5 years?
- c) What were the expenditures on replenishment of e-books by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the past 5 years?
- d) Did the Leisure and Cultural Services Department fix any indicator for raising the usage percentage of e-books?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 12)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2017, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) acquired or subscribed to 9 e-book collections with about 273 000 items whereas the HKPL had a collection of 14.9 million items of physical materials. The ratio of e-books to physical collections is 1:54.6.
- (b) Unlike physical library materials, e-book collections are hosted by service providers and licensed for library use at service providers' platforms through an annual subscription or a perpetual licence. Different service providers use different statistical elements such as the number of e-books consulted, searches, tracks played, browses by category, to present the usage of their databases. The usage statistics of e-book collections in the past 5 years are at Annex.

- (c) The expenditures on the acquisition and subscription of e-book collections in the past 5 years are provided in the table below.

Year	Expenditure (\$million)
2013-14	1.3
2014-15	1.0
2015-16	3.5
2016-17	4.2
2017-18 (Estimated)	4.0

- (d) The HKPL regularly monitors the usage of e-book collections and identifies suitable sources for acquisition and subscription. For instance, the HKPL launched two Chinese e-book collections, viz., HyRead ebook and SUEP e-Book, in June 2016 and April 2017 respectively. The usage statistics of e-book collections in the past 5 years are at **Annex**.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-Book Collections (2013-2017)

Different service providers have used different statistical elements such as the number of e-books consulted, searches, tracks played and browses by category to present the usage of their databases. The usage statistics of e-book collections of the HKPL provided by individual service providers from 2013 to 2017 are tabulated below.

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count				
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Collections adopting similar statistical elements based on the number of e-Books consulted</i>							
1	Apabi Chinese eBooks	online reading and borrowing	63 753	68 096	74 610	59 578	64 071
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	11 025	8 679	8 851	17 185	26 277
3	HyRead ebook (launched in June 2016)	online reading, borrowing and trial	-	-	-	116 649	244 885
4	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾	online reading and download	24 868	26 315	25 019	21 178	28 081
5	SUEP e-Book (launched in April 2017)	online reading, borrowing and trial	-	-	-	-	47 803
Sub-total			<i>99 646</i>	<i>103 090</i>	<i>108 480</i>	<i>214 590</i>	<i>411 117</i>
<i>Collections adopting other statistical elements</i>							
6	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	43 966	32 131	33 635	41 793	26 134
7-8	Safari Books Online ⁽²⁾	searches	17 032	10 586	10 060	10 084	9 871
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	34 110	13 173	25 567	22 403	17 771

Notes

(1) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.

(2) Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online.