

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB188

(Question Serial No. 2187)

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:

With regard to the public library services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from public libraries in the past year? What were the respective numbers of loans of locally published Chinese and English books?
- (b) What was the total expenditure on the acquisition of books by public libraries in the past year? What were the respective expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books? What are the estimated expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books and the total expenditure on book acquisition for the coming year?
- (c) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children which are available for loan, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired in the past financial year. What was the number of books acquired and the expenditure incurred, as well as the number of loans for the books in the financial year? (Note: please exclude the publications of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority acquired.)

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works				
Philosophy				
Religion				

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
Social Sciences				
Language				
Natural Science				
Applied Science				
Arts				
Literature				
History				
Fiction				
Junior Fiction				
Picture Books				

- (d) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the past financial year. What was the number of copies in the library collection, and what was the number of loans for the books in the financial year?

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works			
Philosophy			
Religion			
Social Sciences			
Language			
Natural Science			
Applied Science			
Arts			
Literature			
History			
Fiction			
Junior Fiction			
Picture Books			

- (e) How does the Government assess the loss caused to the sales of the books written and published locally and the copyright of their authors by the acquisition and the number of loans of these books? Will the Government consider introducing the “public lending right” to promote local writing and publishing and strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights?
- (f) Please list under the categories in the table below the number of books registered at the Books Registration Office in the past financial year.

	Number of registered Chinese books	Number of registered Chinese books published by local publishers	Number of registered English books	Number of registered English books published by local publishers	Overall number of registered books
2017-18					

- (g) Please provide information on the expenditures of libraries on e-books in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years; the numbers of Chinese and English titles in each of the e-book database; the loans of e-books in 2017-18; and the measures for the plan to promote e-books and the expenditure involved in this financial year.
- (h) What were the staff establishment and expenditure for the provision of lending services in public libraries in the past year?
- (i) How much did the Government pay for the acquisition of music and video materials as well as the copyrights of music and video materials in the past year?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

- (a) The total numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2017 were 37.4 million and 10.9 million respectively, of which there were 18.1 million and 0.8 million loans of locally published Chinese and English books.
- (b) The estimated expenditure in 2017-18 for the acquisition of books for the HKPL is about \$53.0 million, including \$12.7 million and \$0.8 million for Chinese and English books published in Hong Kong respectively. It is expected that the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 will be maintained at similar levels.
- (c) Due to system constraint and the time required for data compilation, the HKPL can only provide the information on the top 5 titles in terms of copies acquired by classification for adult and children books in 2017-18 in May 2018.
- (d) As the information is not readily available due to system constraint, the HKPL can only provide information on the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the calendar year of 2017 and in 8 categories of books namely, Adult Chinese fiction/non-fiction; Junior Chinese fiction/non-fiction; Adult English fiction/non-fiction; Junior English fiction/non-fiction. Details are at **Annex I**.
- (e) The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) considers the claim that the use of copyrights works through public libraries detracts from primary sales is unproven. At present, the guidelines promulgated by the IFLA do not require the adoption of a Public Lending Right system and there is no consensus among public libraries internationally whether such a system should be adopted. Nevertheless, in support of Hong Kong's development as an international cultural

metropolis, the government will continue to promote literary arts and works of local authors for the vibrant development of our cultures. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to work with the local authors, local publishing sector and other stakeholders to promote reading and literary arts in Hong Kong, with a view to finding ways to directly support local authors and benefit the long-term development of local literary arts.

- (f) The number of books registered with the Books Registration Office in the 2017-18 financial year is set out below –

Financial Year	Number of registered books			
	Chinese	English	Bilingual, other languages and government publications	Total
2017-18 (as at February 2018)	7 723	2 730	2 592	13 045

Remark: All the registered books are published by local publishers.

- (g) As at 31 December 2017, the HKPL acquired or subscribed to 9 e-book collections with about 273 000 items. The total number of titles and usage statistics of the 9 e-book collections are at **Annex II**. The estimated expenditure on the acquisition and subscription of e-book collections in 2017-18 is \$4.0 million. In 2018-19, the HKPL plans to acquire about 20 000 additional copies of e-books and the estimated expenditure will increase by about 40% to \$5.6 million. The HKPL will continue to promote the e-book collections to various sectors of the community by regularly organising education and extension activities, library visits by schools/organisations, briefing sessions on electronic information and “School Culture Day”; and through customer liaison groups, teacher liaison groups as well as paying visits to schools/community groups/organisations. The HKPL will launch an on-line Reading Charter in celebration of the World Book Day in April 2018 further promoting reading to the community at large. The cost will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the LCSD.
- (h) The staff establishment for providing library services, including lending services, under Programme (5): Public Libraries as at 1 April 2017 was 1 444 and the estimated staff cost for 2017-18 is \$531.6 million.
- (i) The HKPL enters into contracts with suppliers of audio-visual materials under which the HKPL is granted the right or licence to provide reading, listening and viewing services of such materials at designated libraries as well as the right to lend audio materials to any third party. Apart from paying contractual fees to the suppliers, the HKPL is not required to pay extra charge for the provision of the above-mentioned services on a loan basis since the suppliers are bound by the contracts to ensure that the audio-visual materials supplied to the public libraries can be used without any restriction. In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure for purchase of music and video materials is about \$8.8 million.

Separately, the HKPL pays royalties/licence fees to the registered licensing bodies for the public performance of music and background music during events held in the libraries and the hiring units of the Hong Kong Central Library, as well as the showing and playing of music works at the individual workstations of the public libraries. The total amount that the Government paid for the copyrights of music and video materials to relevant licensing bodies in 2017-18 is about \$0.2 million.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Top 10 books in terms of circulation in 2017

Table 1 (Adult Chinese fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	射鵰英雄傳 ⁽¹⁾	821	10 913
2.	神鵰俠侶 ⁽¹⁾	840	9 092
3.	天龍八部 ⁽¹⁾	794	7 408
4.	笑傲江湖 ⁽¹⁾	701	6 925
5.	鹿鼎記 ⁽¹⁾	823	6 879
6.	倚天屠龍記 ⁽¹⁾	716	6 671
7.	書劍恩仇錄 ⁽¹⁾	800	6 213
8.	雪山飛狐 ⁽¹⁾	842	6 090
9.	某家的女兒	212	6 019
10.	衷心笑	221	5 789

Table 2 (Adult Chinese non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	東京食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾	934	14 183
2.	香港中學文憑考試. 中國語文 ⁽¹⁾	1 206	14 144
3.	日本 大阪 ⁽¹⁾	626	12 882
4.	大阪.京都 ⁽¹⁾	584	12 826
5.	北海道達人天書 ⁽¹⁾	549	10 722
6.	京阪神達人天書 ⁽¹⁾	676	9 939
7.	東京達人天書 ⁽¹⁾	567	9 891
8.	台北+近郊 高鐵遊 : 食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾	438	9 750
9.	日本 京都 ⁽¹⁾	482	9 182
10.	沖繩 : 藍天碧海琉球風情 Easy go! ⁽¹⁾	477	8 756

Table 3 (Junior Chinese fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	西遊記 ⁽¹⁾	1 313	10 970
2.	小王子 ⁽¹⁾	1 731	9 519
3.	一千零一夜 / 天方夜譚 ⁽¹⁾	1 993	8 499
4.	愛麗斯漫遊仙境/愛麗絲漫遊奇境 ⁽¹⁾	1 715	8 434
5.	金牌鼠贏盡奧運會 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (老鼠記者)	465	7 885
6.	三國演義 ⁽¹⁾	757	7 471
7.	水滸傳 ⁽¹⁾	890	6 996
8.	綠野仙蹤/綠野仙踪 ⁽¹⁾	1 560	6 193
9.	紅樓夢 / 石頭記 ⁽¹⁾	831	5 910
10.	福爾摩斯探案集 / 神探福爾摩斯 / 偵探福爾摩斯 ⁽¹⁾	665	5 807

Table 4 (Junior Chinese non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	老夫子精選系列. 第288冊 ⁽²⁾ (老夫子精選系列)	189	4 873
2.	動動腦.動動手.寶寶找一找	203	4 571
3.	迷你多啦,放心交給它!	278	4 501
4.	魔雪奇緣 ⁽¹⁾	293	4 477
5.	一隻減肥的豬	207	4 375
6.	我會自己做功課 ⁽²⁾ (幼兒自理故事叢書)	201	4 221
7.	大雄的人魚大海戰 ⁽²⁾ (多啦A夢彩色電影版)	265	4 131
8.	聖誕營救大行動 ⁽²⁾ (湯馬仕小火車品德故事集)	203	4 086
9.	我很生氣 ⁽²⁾ (幼兒情緒故事叢書)	207	4 082
10.	爆笑成語. 1 ⁽²⁾ (爆笑課堂系列)	202	4 069

Table 5 (Adult English fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	The five people you meet in heaven	176	2 069
2.	Me before you ⁽¹⁾	80	1 480
3.	The time keeper	111	1 458
4.	For one more day ⁽¹⁾	128	1 282
5.	The hobbit, or, there and back again ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Lord of the rings)	157	1 219
6.	The great Gatsby ⁽¹⁾	196	1 183
7.	The girl on the train ⁽¹⁾	85	1 106
8.	The adventures and memoirs of Sherlock Holmes ⁽¹⁾	157	1 053
9.	The first phone call from heaven	87	957
10.	Nineteen eighty-four ⁽¹⁾	75	869

Table 6 (Adult English non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. English language ⁽¹⁾	1 181	16 656
2.	HKALE. AS use of English ⁽¹⁾	623	2 013
3.	Advanced taxation in Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾	212	1 852
4.	Thinking, fast and slow	101	1 794
5.	Hong Kong company law ⁽¹⁾	201	1 753
6.	Hong Kong mock examination : English language paper 1 & paper 3 : question papers and examination report ⁽¹⁾	212	1 490
7.	Tuesdays with Morrie : an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson ⁽¹⁾	161	1 473
8.	Lonely Planet Japan ⁽¹⁾	215	1 398
9.	Lonely Planet Eastern Europe ⁽¹⁾	204	1 313
10.	Cambridge IELTS. 9 : authentic examination papers from Cambridge ESOL	64	1 233

Table 7 (Junior English fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	Charlie and the chocolate factory ⁽¹⁾	444	5 608
2.	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Harry Potter series)	374	4 139
3.	George's marvellous medicine ⁽¹⁾	317	3 535
4.	The giraffe and the pelly and me ⁽¹⁾	269	3 473
5.	The cloud castle ⁽²⁾ (Thea Stilton Series)	151	3 379
6.	Back in time : the second journey through time ⁽²⁾ (Geronimo Stilton Series)	159	3 326
7.	Matilda ⁽¹⁾	287	3 322
8.	The Phoenix of Destiny : an epic Kingdom of Fantasy adventure ⁽²⁾ (Kingdom of Fantasy Series)	156	3 263
9.	The Twits ⁽¹⁾	223	3 122
10.	The BFG ⁽¹⁾	229	3 076

Table 8 (Junior English non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans
1.	The strange box ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Oxford reading tree)	423	5 318
2.	My little pony : friendship is magic	237	3 334
3.	Thomas & friends : The great race ⁽²⁾ (Learning ladder)	182	3 239
4.	Thomas and the Easter Egg Hunt ⁽²⁾ (My first railway library)	151	3 221
5.	Thomas and the circus ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Thomas & friends The Thomas TV series!)	204	2 889
6.	Mr. Nobody ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Mr. Men, my complete collection)	304	2 829
7.	Peppa goes on holiday ⁽²⁾ (Peppa Pig)	107	2 622
8.	Watch me throw the ball! ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Elephant & Piggie book)	214	2 564
9.	Little Miss Princess ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Little Miss, my complete collection)	219	2 523
10.	The treasure chest ⁽²⁾ (Oxford story tree)	132	2 449

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes.).
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with the highest circulation will be provided.

Annex II to Reply Serial No. HAB188

Hong Kong Public Libraries Total number of titles and usage of e-Book collections in 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 total number of titles and usage statistics of e-book collections of the HKPL provided by individual service providers in 2017 are tabulated below.

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Total Number of Titles ⁽¹⁾	Use Count
<i>Collections adopting similar statistical elements based on the number of e-Books consulted</i>				
1	Apabi Chinese eBooks	online reading and borrowing	95 200	64 071
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	12 993	26 277
3	HyRead ebook	online reading, borrowing and trial	6 699	244 885
4	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽²⁾	online reading and download	149 270	28 081
5	SUEP e-Book (launched in April 2017)	online reading, borrowing and trial	2 016	47 803
<i>Collections adopting other statistical elements</i>				
6	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	6 134	26 134
7-8	Safari Books Online ⁽³⁾	searches	524	9 871
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	467	17 771

Notes

- (1) The 9 e-book collections currently contain about 273 000 Chinese and English e-books. The 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.
- (2) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.
- (3) Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online.

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