

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB202

(Question Serial No. 3584)

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:

- 1) What were the numbers of logins, browses and loans for e-book collections in the past 3 years?
- 2) What were the sizes of the library stocks and the number of titles available for browses/loan in the past 3 years?
- 3) What were the annual expenditures on the acquisition of e-book copyrights and the promotion of e-book services in the past 3 years? Does the Department have any plan to promote the use of e-resources, particularly e-book services?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 132)

Reply:

- 1) The usage statistics of e-book collections of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in the past 3 years are at **Annex**.
- 2) The number of items of print and non-print physical materials of the HKPL in the past 3 years is set out below. All library materials are available for browses/loan at individual libraries.

Type of Library Materials	HKPL's Collection (number of items) as at 31 December		
	2015 (million)	2016 (million)	2017 (million)
Printed materials	12.34	12.52	13.04
Non-print materials	1.81	1.83	1.86
Total	14.15	14.35	14.90

- 3) The expenditures on the acquisition and subscription of e-book collections in 2015-16 and 2016-17 were \$3.5 million and \$4.2 million respectively. The estimated expenditure in 2017-18 is \$4.0 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 to further promote reading to the community at large. The cost will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL)
Usage of e-Book Collections (2015-2017)

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 2015 to 2017 are tabulated below.

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count		
			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	74 610	59 578	64 071
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	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	25 019	21 178	28 081
5	SUEP e-Book (launched in April 2017)	online reading, borrowing and trial	-	-	47 803
<i>Collections adopting other statistical elements</i>					
6	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	33 635	41 793	26 134
7-8	Safari Books Online ⁽²⁾	searches	10 060	10 084	9 871
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	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.