

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5121)

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 the public library services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department,

- (i) please provide information on the expenditures on e-books in the 2018-19 financial year; the loan of e-books in 2018-19; and the plan to promote e-books (including AR or VR books) and the expenditure involved in 2017-18.
- (ii) what are details of the staff establishment and expenditure involved for the 24-hour self-service library station service in 2017-18 and 2018-19? As at February 2018, how was the loan of library materials at the 24-hour self-service library station?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 38)

Reply:

- (i) Information on the e-book collections acquired or subscribed by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2017-18 and 2018-19 is set out below –

	2017-18	2018-19 (Estimated)
Number of e-book collections	9*	11
Number of titles	273 000*	290 000
Expenditure	\$4.0 million (Estimated)	\$5.6 million

* As at end December 2017

The usage statistics of the 9 e-book collections in 2017 are at **Annex**, whilst statistics for 2018-19 are not available. The HKPL is committed to the promotion of 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, “School Culture Day”, and through customer liaison groups, teacher liaison groups as well as paying visits to schools/community

groups/organisations. In addition, the HKPL has participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair to introduce the e-resources, and 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 has been absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in respective years.

- (ii) The LCSD has launched a pilot scheme to provide 3 self-service library stations, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. The first library station in the Eastern District was opened on 5 December 2017 while the remaining 2 in the Yau Tsim Mong District and the Sha Tin District respectively are planned to be opened by phases in the second half of 2018 tentatively. It can hold about 300 items of library materials at any one time. In 2017-18, the non-recurrent cost and the recurrent cost for the library station in the Eastern District is about \$2.6 million and \$0.7 million respectively. The LCSD has earmarked \$3.5 million for the daily operation and maintenance of the library stations in 2018-19, excluding cost of library staff redeployed from other library facilities. Up to the end of February 2018, the library station in the Eastern District had recorded a total of 7 187 loans.

Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL)
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 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	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	64 071
2	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	26 277
3	HyRead ebook	online reading, borrowing and trial	244 885
4	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾	online reading and download	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	26 134
7-8	Safari Books Online ⁽²⁾	searches	9 871
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	17 771

Notes

(1) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.

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

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