

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB456

(Question Serial No. 6108)

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:

The work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is to provide, manage and develop library services to meet community needs for knowledge, life-long learning, information, research and recreation, to offer library extension activities to all ages, and to promote reading and literary arts. Please provide the following information:

- (a) The attendance and number of loans, the construction cost and operating cost of the self-service library station in the past year;
- (b) Whether additional self-service library stations will be set up in different districts in the future; if yes, what are the plans?
- (c) The attendance and number of loans, the construction cost and operating cost of mobile libraries in the past 3 year;
- (d) Whether more mobile library services will be provided in different districts in the future; if yes, what are the plans?
- (e) The attendance and number of loans, the construction cost and operating cost of each library in the past year;
- (f) Whether additional libraries will be set up in different districts in the future; if yes, what are the plans?
- (g) The number of public library books reported lost in the past 3 years and the amount of fines.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 100)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (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. Up to the end of February 2018, the library station in the Eastern District had recorded a total of 7 187 loans and the attendance record is not available. In 2017-18, the non-recurrent cost (excluding the costs of site preparation) and the recurrent cost for the library station in the Eastern District is about \$2.6 million and \$0.7 million respectively.

The LCSD will conduct a review in 2018-19 to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, feedback of the users, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of extending the service to other locations and seek additional funding as required.

- (c) and (d) The LCSD has enhanced the mobile library service progressively since July 2014 by introducing 2 new mobile library vans and reshuffling the routes of the existing mobile library vans. Since then, 18 mobile library stops have been added or are being arranged. As at March 2018, the LCSD operated 12 mobile library vans at over 110 mobile library stops. The LCSD will continue to monitor and review the usage of its mobile library services for the effective utilisation of resources to better serve the public. Usage and attendance of the 12 mobile libraries in the past 3 years are set out in table below.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Total attendance	458 052	424 828	410 056
Total number of library material borrowed	719 004	656 231	627 960

- (e) The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) currently operates 70 static libraries. The annual attendance figures and number of loans of each of the static public library of the LCSD in 2017 are tabulated at [Annex](#).

All libraries under the HKPL are inter-connected by an integrated automated library system. The total operating expenditures for providing the library services are about \$992 million, \$1,047 million and \$1,113 million in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively, covering staff cost and the costs of library materials, replacement of furniture and equipment, public utilities, system maintenance, store items, rental for libraries at leased premises, hiring of contracted services and other operational expenses. Since many functions are co-ordinated centrally, breakdown on the recurrent operating expenditures incurred by individual libraries (static and mobile libraries) is not available.

Regarding construction cost of a new library in 2017, the Yuen Long Public Library was reprovisioned to the new premises with enhanced facilities and

services in June. It was part of the capital works project under “Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long” at a total construction cost of about \$704.1 million.

- (f) A new district library in the North West Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6 in the Sham Shui Po District is under construction and the works are anticipated to be completed in 2020. In addition, we are planning a new district library in the proposed Government Joint Users Complex at Lei King Road in the Eastern District.
- (g) For the past 3 years, the number of books reported loss at public libraries and the outstanding amount of overdue fines not yet settled are provided in the following table –

Financial Year	Number of books reported loss	Amount of outstanding overdue fines^(Note) (\$'000)
2015-16	12 858	627
2016-17	11 156	794
2017-18	10 759	1,407

Note

It was the amount accrued in the library system as at 15 March 2018.

Annual attendance figures and number of loans of static public libraries in 2017

District	Static public libraries	2017	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
Hong Kong Islands			
Central & Western	City Hall	797 105	749 152
	Shek Tong Tsui	535 206	455 582
	Smithfield	271 108	222 735
Eastern	Chai Wan	569 806	526 629
	Electric Road	254 598	222 031
	North Point	315 482	236 103
	Quarry Bay	505 960	473 912
	Siu Sai Wan	412 190	261 766
	Yiu Tung	179 340	150 553
Southern	Aberdeen	568 382	519 529
	Ap Lei Chau	226 623	261 958
	Pok Fu Lam	217 085	195 081
	Stanley	146 963	107 068
Wanchai	Hong Kong Central Library	3 937 700	1 522 965
	Lockhart Road	562 394	422 667
	Wong Nai Chung	169 275	106 336
Kowloon			
Kowloon City	Hung Hom	323 870	319 015
	Kowloon	606 782	755 165
	Kowloon City	226 338	231 691
	To Kwa Wan	542 196	362 987
Kwun Tong	Lam Tin	879 721	638 348
	Lei Yue Mun	153 592	192 514
	Ngau Tau Kok	545 317	431 426
	Sau Mau Ping	154 908	185 702
	Shui Wo Street	570 602	493 820
	Shun Lee Estate	165 309	230 082

District	Static public libraries	2017	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok	741 406	660 951
	Po On Road	954 798	518 128
	Shek Kip Mei	281 414	321 220
	Un Chau Street	283 109	204 870
Wong Tai Sin	Fu Shan	204 898	129 359
	Lok Fu	271 933	239 564
	Lung Hing	317 353	200 782
	Ngau Chi Wan	434 586	456 669
	San Po Kong	788 210	458 011
	Tsz Wan Shan	377 249	252 632
Yau Tsim Mong	Fa Yuen Street	567 884	443 184
	Tai Kok Tsui	424 735	335 123
	Tsim Sha Tsui	164 193	301 045
	Yau Ma Tei	512 561	469 704
New Territories			
Islands	Cheung Chau	219 849	78 981
	Mui Wo	46 084	24 048
	North Lamma	5 918	14 150
	Peng Chau	31 907	37 057
	South Lamma	1 685	954
	Tai O	31 843	8 616
	Tung Chung	499 371	670 955
Kwai Tsing	North Kwai Chung	450 702	296 273
	South Kwai Chung	682 604	616 967
	Tsing Yi	735 896	559 338
North	Fanling	629 502	483 603
	Fanling South	311 774	261 678
	Sha Tau Kok	30 363	12 521
	Sheung Shui	788 055	472 527
Sai Kung	Sai Kung	303 886	343 333
	Tiu Keng Leng	949 419	949 356
	Tseung Kwan O	731 173	961 872

District	Static public libraries	2017	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
Sha Tin	Lek Yuen	224 131	126 084
	Ma On Shan	915 357	709 537
	Sha Tin	1 176 802	1 228 398
	Yuen Chau Kok ⁽¹⁾	621 644	541 020
Tai Po	Tai Po	1 129 387	745 708
Tsuen Wan	Shek Wai Kok	119 759	89 776
	Tsuen Wan	1 253 651	1 200 338
Tuen Mun	Butterfly Estate	194 941	143 939
	Tai Hing	343 678	218 863
	Tuen Mun	1 333 236	1 202 202
Yuen Long	Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai	1 246 221	1 100 759
	Tin Shui Wai North	408 417	153 125
	Yuen Long ⁽²⁾	1 073 523	631 391
TOTAL		36 652 959	29 149 428

Notes

- (1) Yuen Chau Kok Public Library (District Library) was opened in March 2017.
(2) Yuen Long Pubic Library (District Library) was reprovisioned to the new premises with enhanced facilities and services in June 2017.

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