

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB458**

**(Question Serial No. 5475)**

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:

How many e-books will be acquired by the public libraries in 2018-19? Please provide the details of the number and type of e-books to be acquired. Furthermore, does the Government have any plan to write off obsolete reference books?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 64)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Hong Kong Public Libraries plans to acquire or subscribe to 11 e-book collections (covering about 290 000 titles). The newly acquired or subscribed e-books include both Chinese and English items covering a wide range of subjects of general interests and leisure reading for adults and children, such as fictions, arts, business and finance, language and literature, and science and technology.

Weeding is an ongoing process to ensure the vitality and usefulness of the library collections to the community and to make room for new materials. In general, reference books will be written off when their reference or research value is lost.

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