

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB15

(Question Serial No. S0072)

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 withdrawal of library materials by public libraries, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Please tabulate the details of library materials withdrawn in each of the past 5 years with a breakdown by type of materials and reason for withdrawal.

(Year)

	(Type of materials) E.g. printed books	E.g. audio-visual materials	E.g. microforms
Worn out/damaged			
Information contained is outdated			
Total			

- 2) Please tabulate the quantity of "surplus" materials donated to community organisations, non-profit-making organisations and educational bodies in the past 5 years and list out (i) the names of recipient organisations and (ii) the quantity of the types of materials received.

Year	Recipient organisation	(Quantity of various types of materials received) E.g. printed books	E.g. audio-visual materials

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

- (1) The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) writes off library materials that are worn out/damaged or contain outdated information in accordance with established guidelines and procedures. The total number of library materials withdrawn in the past 5 years with breakdown by type of materials is set out in the table below. Breakdown of library materials by reasons for withdrawal is not readily available.

Year	Numbers of books withdrawn (’000 items)	Number of non-print materials withdrawn (’000 items)
2013-14	598	66
2014-15	402	51
2015-16	363	33
2016-17	534	37
2017-18 (as at 28 February 2018)	138	8

- (2) The HKPL issued invitations to non-profit-making community organisations joining the “Libraries@neighbourhood - Community Libraries Partnership Scheme”, for donating the library books regarded as surplus. A total of 412 printed books have been donated to 20 community libraries and 2 schools since 2015.

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