

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB123****(Question Serial No. 2259)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (5) Public LibrariesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

With regard to the public library services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from public libraries in the past year? What were the respective numbers of loans of locally published Chinese and English books?
- (b) What was the total expenditure on the acquisition of books by public libraries in the past year? What were the respective expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books? What are the estimated expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books and the total expenditure on book acquisition for the coming year?
- (c) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children which are available for loan, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired in the past financial year. What was the number of books acquired and the expenditure incurred, as well as the number of loans for the books in the financial year? (Note: please exclude the publications of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority acquired.)

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works				
Philosophy				
Religion				
Social Sciences				
Language				

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
Natural Science				
Applied Science				
Arts				
Literature				
History				
Fiction				
Junior Fiction				
Picture Books				

- (d) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the past financial year. What was the number of copies in the library collection, and what was the number of loans for the books in the financial year?

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works			
Philosophy			
Religion			
Social Sciences			
Language			
Natural Science			
Applied Science			
Arts			
Literature			
History			
Fiction			
Junior Fiction			
Picture Books			

- (e) Please list in the table below the number of books registered at the Books Registration Office in the past financial year.

	Number of registered Chinese books	Number of registered Chinese books published by local publishers	Number of registered English books	Number of registered English books published by local publishers	Overall number of registered books
2019-20					

- (f) Please provide information on the expenditures of libraries on e-books in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years; the numbers of Chinese and English titles in each of the e-book databases; the loans of e-books in 2019-20; and the measures in the plan to promote e-books and the expenditure involved in this financial year.
- (g) It is mentioned in the Brief Description of the Estimates that the LCSD will implement the “Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture” for 3 years starting from 2020 for the publishing sector to develop a new electronic database of book data for local publications. What are the details of the programme and the expenditure involved? When is the database expected to be launched?
- (h) What were the staff establishment and expenditure for the provision of lending services in public libraries in the past year?
- (i) How much was spent for the acquisition of music and video materials as well as the copyrights of music and video materials in the past year?
- (j) How does the Government assess the loss caused by the acquisition and the number of loans of these books to the sales of books written and published locally and the copyright of their authors? When will the Government consider introducing the “public lending right” to promote local writing and publishing and strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

- (a) The total numbers of loans of Chinese and English books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2019 were 33.79 million and 9.67 million respectively, of which there were 15.77 million and 0.56 million loans of locally published Chinese and English books.
- (b) The estimated expenditure in 2019-20 for the acquisition of books for the HKPL is about \$47.4 million, including \$11.6 million and \$1.2 million for Chinese and English books published in Hong Kong respectively. The projected expenditure for 2020-21 for the acquisition of books will be about \$50 million and the estimated expenditure for locally published Chinese and English books will be maintained at similar levels.
- (c) Due to system constraint and the time required for data compilation, the HKPL can only provide the information on the top 5 titles in terms of copies acquired by classification for adult and children books in 2019-20 in May 2020.
- (d) As the information is not readily available due to system constraint, the HKPL can provide information on the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the calendar year of 2019 and in 8 categories of books namely, adult Chinese fiction/non-fiction; junior Chinese fiction/non-fiction; adult English fiction/non-fiction; junior English fiction/non-fiction. Details are at Annex I.
- (e) The number of books registered with the Books Registration Office in 2019-20 is set out below:

Financial Year	Number of registered books			
	Chinese	English	Bilingual, other languages and government publications	Total
2019-20 (as at February 2020)	8 057	2 251	2 490	12 798

Remark: All the registered books are published by local publishers.

- (f) As at 31 December 2019, the HKPL acquired or subscribed to 11 e-book collections with about 338 000 items. The estimated expenditure on the acquisition and subscription of e-book collections in 2019-20 is about \$6.06 million. The number of titles and usage statistics of the 11 e-book collections are at [Annex II](#). To further enrich the e-resources of the HKPL, the estimated expenditure in 2020-21 on building the e-resources will increase to \$27.4 million which includes continuing the acquisition and subscription of 11 e-book collections of about 360 000 titles and 80 e-databases. On e-book collections, the HKPL plans to acquire about 30 000 additional copies of Chinese and English e-books of different categories, including more e-books published in Hong Kong and audio e-books published in the United Kingdom and the United States.

The HKPL is committed to the promotion of e-books collections to various sectors of the community by regularly organising educational and extension activities, library visits by schools/organisations, briefing sessions on electronic resources, “School Culture Day”, and through reader liaison groups, teacher liaison groups as well as paying visits to schools/community groups/organisations. The HKPL has also launched Online Registration for Borrowers and Take a Break - eReading Corner to facilitate readers’ access to e-book collections anytime and anywhere. In addition, the HKPL actively participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair and the Learning and Teaching Expo to promote its e-resources to members of the public and teachers. The HKPL will produce demonstration videos with a view to stepping up publicity on the internet and social media in encouraging members of the public to enjoy immediate access to e-books. The manpower and expenditures will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure and estimates for the reading promotion campaign of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

- (g) After the LCSD’s discussion with the publishing sector, an additional funding of \$30 million is provided to implement the “Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture” (Pilot Programme) for 3 years starting from the second quarter of 2020, with a view to supporting local authors and local publications, encouraging the sector to utilise electronic platform, as well as promoting Hong Kong’s quality reading culture. The Pilot Programme includes developing a new electronic database of book data for local publications, providing information on local publications in the HKPL’s collection, such as digitalised book cover images, summaries/annotations, which link to the online catalogue of the HKPL for displaying richer and more detailed information of local publications. Apart from facilitating readers to select local publications in the library collection, the database also allows free access of users beyond geographical boundaries. In addition, the HKPL can roll out meaningful book recommendations with promotion materials about local authors and publications provided by the Pilot Programme, as well as invite local authors to

attend large-scale library promotion activities through the Pilot Programme for better publicity.

- (h) The staff establishment for providing library services, including lending services, under Programme (5): Public Libraries as at 1 April 2019 was 1 475 and the estimated staff cost for 2019-20 is \$581.3 million.
- (i) The HKPL enters into contracts with suppliers of audio-visual materials under which the HKPL is granted the right or licence to provide such materials for reading, listening or viewing at designated libraries as well as the right to lend audio materials to any third party. Apart from paying contractual fees to the suppliers, the HKPL is not required to pay extra charge for the provision of the above-mentioned services on a loan basis since it is stipulated in the contracts that the suppliers should ensure that the audio-visual materials supplied to the public libraries can be used without any restriction. In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure for the purchase of music and video materials is about \$8.6 million.

Separately, the HKPL pays royalties/licence fees to the registered licensing bodies for the public performance of music and background music during events held in the libraries and the hiring units of the Hong Kong Central Library, as well as the showing and playing of music works at individual workstations of public libraries. The total amount of royalties/licence fees that the Government paid for the copyrights of music and video materials to relevant licensing bodies in 2019-20 is about \$0.5 million.

- (j) There are still divergent views on public lending right in the international community and the claim that public library service reduces primary sales of books is unproven. The Government understands that a flourishing publishing industry is vital to the supply of a wide variety of quality reading materials for promoting a reading culture in Hong Kong. In this connection, the LCSD has been maintaining close contact with the publishing sector to explore different measures to support the long-term development of the sector. The LCSD, after some discussion with the publishing sector, provides additional resources to implement the aforementioned Pilot Programme, which aims at widely supporting the publishing sector and authors in Hong Kong, promoting healthy development of the publishing sector, thus achieving the same objective of public lending right proposed by the sector.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Top 10 Books in Terms of Circulation in 2019

Table 1 (Adult Chinese Fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	射鵬英雄傳 ⁽¹⁾	921	11 053
2.	神鵬俠侶 ⁽¹⁾	1 147	8 755
3.	俠客行 ⁽¹⁾	1 132	6 917
4.	倚天屠龍記 ⁽¹⁾	792	6 380
5.	鹿鼎記 ⁽¹⁾	865	6 102
6.	好好好	215	5 678
7.	去年今日此門	213	5 552
8.	結或不結 離或不離	215	5 524
9.	這是戰爭	215	5 521
10.	天龍八部 ⁽¹⁾	694	5 465

Table 2 (Adult Chinese Non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	大阪.京都 ⁽¹⁾	741	13 964
2.	東京食玩買終極天書 ⁽¹⁾	715	11 993
3.	九州達人天書 ⁽¹⁾	503	10 293
4.	東京 ⁽¹⁾	533	10 111
5.	九州 ⁽¹⁾	524	9 860
6.	九州：玩味泡湯親自自然Easy go! ⁽¹⁾	489	9 846
7.	北海道達人天書 ⁽¹⁾	600	9 413
8.	紅楓粉櫻古意漫遊Easy Go!： 京阪神 關西 ⁽¹⁾	630	9 335
9.	澳洲王 ⁽¹⁾	495	9 201
10.	台北 九份 淡水 基隆 宜蘭食玩買 終極天書 ⁽¹⁾	472	9 013

Table 3 (Junior Chinese Fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	西遊記 ⁽¹⁾	1 550	14 240
2.	三國演義 ⁽¹⁾	1 178	12 137
3.	水滸傳 ⁽¹⁾	1 249	9 075
4.	愛麗絲夢遊仙境／愛麗絲夢遊奇境 ⁽¹⁾	1 821	8 847
5.	小王子 ⁽¹⁾	1 882	8 290
6.	一千零一夜／天方夜譚 ⁽¹⁾	1 450	7 286
7.	名偵探福爾摩斯／福爾摩斯探案集／神探福爾摩斯／偵探福爾摩斯 ⁽¹⁾	764	6 828
8.	綠野仙蹤／綠野仙踪 ⁽¹⁾	1 499	6 797
9.	紅樓夢 ⁽¹⁾	869	6 217
10.	英倫魔術事件簿 ⁽²⁾ (老鼠記者)	251	5 519

Table 4 (Junior Chinese Non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	老夫子再版精選.第037冊，飛行夢 ⁽²⁾ (老夫子精選系列)	200	4 477
2.	大雄的人魚大海戰 ^{(1) (2)} (多啦A夢彩色電影版)	309	4 437
3.	什麼都不愛吃的皮皮 ⁽²⁾ (新雅.繪本館)	239	4 244
4.	Peppa Pig粉紅豬小妹・睡覺時間 = Bedtime for Peppa ⁽²⁾ (粉紅豬小妹)	201	4 232
5.	這本書教你分左右	241	4 218
6.	大阪尋寶記 ⁽²⁾ (世界歷史探險系列)	169	4 082
7.	不准電視機吃飯 ⁽²⁾ (食物教育繪本)	240	4 045
8.	自信的甘筍 ⁽²⁾ (新雅.繪本館 菜園繪本系列)	239	4 031
9.	正義使者:晃晃星人之卷 ^{(1) (2)} (精選圖畫書)	250	4 002
10.	寶寶，晚安! ⁽²⁾ (新雅・寶寶生活館)	202	3 923

Table 5 (Adult English Fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	The five people you meet in heaven	149	1 451
2.	The Great Gatsby ⁽¹⁾	190	1 225
3.	The time keeper	110	1 109
4.	Me before you ⁽¹⁾	96	1 074
5.	The fellowship of the ring ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (The lord of the rings)	244	1 039
6.	For one more day ⁽¹⁾	124	986
7.	Origin : a novel	80	946
8.	Nineteen eighty-four ⁽¹⁾	74	943
9.	The adventures of Sherlock Holmes ⁽¹⁾	147	864
10.	Animal farm: a fairy story ⁽¹⁾	78	855

Table 6 (Adult English Non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. English language 2018 ⁽²⁾	202	3 918
2.	Becoming ⁽¹⁾	160	1 641
3.	Thinking, fast and slow	106	1 611
4.	Cambridge English IELTS.10: with answers: authentic examination papers from Cambridge English language assessment ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (IELTS practice tests series)	73	1 474
5.	Hong Kong taxation and tax planning ⁽¹⁾	156	1 446
6.	Lonely Planet Eastern Europe	222	1 351
7.	21 lessons for the 21st century ⁽¹⁾	102	1 285
8.	Hong Kong company law ⁽¹⁾	178	1 239
9.	Language proficiency assessment for teachers. English language ... question papers ⁽²⁾	134	1 152
10.	Bad blood : secrets and lies in a Silicon Valley startup	85	1 131

Table 7 (Junior English Fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	Charlie and the chocolate factory ⁽¹⁾	394	4 704
2.	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ^{(1) (2)} (Harry Potter)	317	3 776
3.	Captain Underpants and the perilous plot of Professor Poopypants : the fourth epic novel ^{(1) (2)} (Captain Underpants)	307	3 454
4.	The hunt for the Colosseum ghost ⁽²⁾ (Geronimo Stilton special edition; Thea Stilton)	151	3 089
5.	No time to lose : the fifth journey through time ⁽²⁾ (Geronimo Stilton; Journey through time)	155	3 050
6.	The chocolate chase ⁽²⁾ (Geronimo Stilton)	146	2 858
7.	Matilda ⁽¹⁾	238	2 752
8.	The treasure of the sea ⁽²⁾ (Thea Stilton)	153	2 665
9.	The Land of Flowers : a Geronimo Stilton adventure ⁽²⁾ (Thea Stilton. Special edition)	145	2 647
10.	The Twits ⁽¹⁾	216	2 642

Table 8 (Junior English Non-fiction)

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	The laughing princess ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Oxford reading tree series)	354	5 188
2.	My little pony : friendship is magic	229	4 418
3.	Peppa loves Christmas ⁽²⁾ (Peppa Pig series)	119	2 522
4.	The smartest giant in town ⁽¹⁾	243	2 520
5.	Disney Pixar Toy story. The bunny surprise ⁽²⁾ (Learning ladder)	173	2 201
6.	Dog Man and Cat Kid ⁽²⁾ (Dog Man)	90	2 080
7.	Little Miss Princess ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ (Little Miss, my complete collection)	286	2 043
8.	The Gruffalo ⁽¹⁾	173	2 035
9.	The snail and the whale ⁽¹⁾	181	2 013
10.	My first Mr. Men lift-the-flap ⁽¹⁾	99	1 939

Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes).
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with the highest circulation will be provided.

Hong Kong Public Libraries
Total Number of Titles and Usage of e-Book Collections in 2019

Different service providers have used different statistical elements, such as the number of e-books consulted, searches, tracks played, browses by category to present the usage of their databases. The total number of titles and usage statistics of e-book collections of the Hong Kong Public Libraries provided by individual e-book database service providers in 2019 are tabulated below.

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Total Number of Titles ⁽¹⁾	Use Count
<i>Collections adopting similar statistical elements based on the number of e-Books consulted</i>				
1	HyRead ebook	online reading, borrowing and trial	12 121	600 520
2	SUEP e-Book	online reading, borrowing and trial	4 231	211 572
3	Apabi Chinese eBooks	online reading and borrowing	104 000	54 572
4	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽²⁾	online reading and download	177 318	23 135
5	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	22 301	24 899
6	FunPark	online reading	373	30 350
7	OverDrive eBooks (launched in February 2019)	borrowing	4 987	18 962
Sub-total				964 010
<i>Collections adopting other statistical elements</i>				
8	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	11 764	28 949
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	467	11 821
10-11	Safari Books Online ⁽³⁾	searches	522	7 502

Notes

(1) HyRead ebook, SUEP e-Book, Apabi Chinese eBooks, Funpark and Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese are Chinese e-book databases whereas ProQuest Ebook Central, eBooks on EBSCOhost, Naxos Spoken Word Library, Safari Books Online and OverDrive eBooks are English e-book databases. The 11 e-book collections currently contain about 338 000 Chinese and English e-books. The e-book collections are hosted by service providers and licensed for library use at service providers' platforms through an annual subscription or a perpetual licence.

(2) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.

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