CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4373)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):   (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

a.   How many items of e-book resources are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for access and borrowing by the public?

b.   Further to the above, please tabulate the numbers of accounts handled by each item and the numbers of loans of e-book resources in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 339)

Reply:

a.   As at December 2019, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) had acquired or subscribed to 11 e-book collections with about 338 000 items.

b.   Registered borrowers of the HKPL can enjoy one-stop access to the e-book collections of the HKPL through its website.   The numbers of registered borrowers and newly registered borrowers of the HKPL in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	2015 ('000)	2016 ('000)	2017 ('000)	2018 ('000)	2019 ('000)
Number of Registered Borrowers	4 372	4 454	4 532	4 609	4 682
Number of Newly Registered Borrowers	91	82	82	77	73

Unlike physical library materials, 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.   Different service providers use 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 usage statistics of e-book collections in the past 5 years are at the Annex.

Hong Kong Public Libraries

Usage of e-Book Collections (2015 to 2019)

The usage statistics of e-book collections of the Hong Kong Public Libraries provided by individual e-book database service providers from 2015 to 2019 are tabulated below:

Item	Title of e-Book Collections	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Collections adopting similar statistical elements based on the number of e-books consulted							
1	HyRead ebook (launched in June 2016)	online reading, borrowing and trial	-	116 649	244 885	353 543	600 520
2	SUEP e-Book (launched in April 2017)	online reading, borrowing and trial	-	-	47 803	116 279	211 572
3	Apabi Chinese eBooks	online reading and borrowing	74 610	59 578	64 071	56 716	54 572
4	ProQuest Ebook Central[1]	online reading and download	25 019	21 178	28 081	30 998	23 135
5	eBooks on EBSCO*host*	online reading and download	8 851	17 185	26 277	26 634	24 899
6	FunPark (launched in April 2018)	online reading	-	-	-	25 149	30 350
7	OverDrive eBooks (launched in February 2019)	borrowing	-	-	-	-	18 962
		Sub-total	*108 480*	*214 590*	*411 117*	*609 319*	*964 010*
Collections adopting other statistical elements							
8	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	33 635	41 793	26 134	26 315	28 949
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	25 567	22 403	17 771	13 015	11 821
10-11	Safari Books Online[2]	searches	10 060	10 084	9 871	8 971	7 502

<u>Notes</u>

(1)　Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.

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

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