

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB370

(Question Serial No. 4418)

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:

The work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is, inter alia, 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, number of loans, construction cost and operating cost of self-service library stations 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, number of loans, construction cost and operating cost of mobile libraries in the past 3 years.
- d. Whether more mobile library services will be provided in different districts in the future; if yes, what are the plans?
- e. The attendance, number of loans, 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 numbers of public library books reported lost in the past 3 years and the amounts of fines not recovered.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 90)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides 3 self-service library stations under a trial scheme, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow but far from existing libraries, rendering round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. The 3 self-service library stations located at the Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area, Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Tsuen Nam Road, Tai Wai of the New Territories commenced service in December 2017, December 2018 and January 2020 respectively. Up to the end of February 2020, the 3 library stations had recorded a total of 68 644 loans since launch, and the attendance record is not available.

With the launch of the third library station in Tai Wai in January 2020, the LCSD is going to conduct a review on the trial scheme of self-service library stations to evaluate its effectiveness taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, users' feedback, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of providing self-service library stations in other districts with the current mode and seek additional funding as required.

The LCSD operates a total of 12 mobile libraries serving over 110 service stops across the territory. The attendances and usage of the 12 mobile libraries in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

12 Mobile Libraries	2017	2018	2019
Total Attendance	410 056	390 759	386 788
Total Number of Library Materials Borrowed	627 960	588 468	553 205

The LCSD will continue to monitor and review the usage of its mobile library services for effective utilisation of resources to better serve the public. Besides, the LCSD launched the "Joyful Reading at Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels" Pilot Project in January 2020. A specially designed truck visits locations of heavier pedestrian flow but far from existing library facilities or community events in different districts to promote theme-based reading, library self-charging service, e-books and other electronic resources, online services, etc.

The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) currently operates a total of 70 static libraries. The attendance figures and number of loans of each of the static public libraries of the LCSD in 2019 are set out at Annex.

All libraries under the HKPL are inter-connected by an integrated automated library system. The total operating expenditures for providing library services are \$1.099 billion, \$1.162 billion and \$1.255 billion in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 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 library facilities (including static libraries, mobile libraries and self-service library stations) is not available.

There will be no new static library opened in 2020-21. The new Sham Shui Po Public Library in the North West Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6 of Sham Shui Po District is under construction and estimated to be opened in the second half of 2021. In addition, the LCSD is planning to set up a new district library at the proposed Joint User Complex at Lei King Road in the Eastern District.

For the past 3 years, the number of books reported lost at public libraries and the outstanding amount of overdue fines not yet settled are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Number of Books Reported Lost	Amount of Outstanding Overdue Fines⁽¹⁾ (\$'000)
2017-18	10 759	567
2018-19	10 258	582
2019-20	7 945	1,215 ⁽²⁾

Notes

- (1) It was the amount accrued in the library system as at 11 March 2020.
- (2) So long as outstanding overdue fines are being paid, the outstanding amount recorded in each of the financial years will gradually decrease. Meanwhile, the outstanding amount recorded in the latest financial year will normally be higher than those in preceding years.

Attendance Figures and Number of Loans of Static Public Libraries in 2019

District	Static Public Libraries	2019	
		Total Attendance	Total Number of Library Materials Borrowed
Hong Kong Island			
Central and Western	City Hall	775 753	690 946
	Shek Tong Tsui	498 227	398 520
	Smithfield	287 224	217 984
Eastern	Chai Wan	535 725	474 732
	Electric Road	245 964	193 029
	North Point	310 424	222 810
	Quarry Bay	469 714	479 828
	Siu Sai Wan	344 801	222 404
	Yiu Tung	138 323	136 011
Southern	Aberdeen	568 423	441 752
	Ap Lei Chau	220 945	250 294
	Pok Fu Lam	199 792	190 121
	Stanley	142 726	117 276
Wan Chai	Hong Kong Central Library	3 574 531	1 258 886
	Lockhart Road	478 967	369 215
	Wong Nai Chung	170 699	104 578
Kowloon			
Kowloon City	Hung Hom	306 972	277 490
	Kowloon	608 554	673 913
	Kowloon City	224 419	208 457
	To Kwa Wan	505 528	370 519
Kwun Tong	Lam Tin	834 507	528 385
	Lei Yue Mun	127 539	186 325
	Ngau Tau Kok	500 984	361 012
	Sau Mau Ping	141 518	137 484
	Shui Wo Street	533 874	397 010
	Shun Lee Estate	171 609	252 448

District	Static Public Libraries	2019	
		Total Attendance	Total Number of Library Materials Borrowed
Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok	738 633	572 635
	Po On Road	907 345	465 377
	Shek Kip Mei	282 236	312 519
	Un Chau Street	277 223	149 053
Wong Tai Sin	Fu Shan	189 975	111 075
	Lok Fu	242 003	179 465
	Lung Hing	312 759	168 293
	Ngau Chi Wan	398 989	453 333
	San Po Kong	763 647	448 184
	Tsz Wan Shan	374 569	291 255
Yau Tsim Mong	Fa Yuen Street	512 452	367 887
	Tai Kok Tsui	425 891	318 050
	Tsim Sha Tsui	137 924	288 761
	Yau Ma Tei	496 324	419 184
New Territories			
Islands	Cheung Chau	200 201	65 797
	Mui Wo	46 851	24 747
	North Lamma ^(Note)	40 465	22 839
	Peng Chau	32 755	35 409
	South Lamma	1 411	382
	Tai O	31 596	7 087
	Tung Chung	443 792	504 536
Kwai Tsing	North Kwai Chung	478 854	268 252
	South Kwai Chung	625 753	533 589
	Tsing Yi	716 238	507 833
North	Fanling	604 924	433 710
	Fanling South	300 887	215 659
	Sha Tau Kok	24 339	7 804
	Sheung Shui	689 921	375 709
Sai Kung	Sai Kung	312 810	283 190
	Tiu Keng Leng	914 338	860 915
	Tseung Kwan O	636 857	888 149

District	Static Public Libraries	2019	
		Total Attendance	Total Number of Library Materials Borrowed
Sha Tin	Lek Yuen	203 445	91 731
	Ma On Shan	839 459	617 087
	Sha Tin	1 025 193	1 082 472
	Yuen Chau Kok	629 598	613 074
Tai Po	Tai Po	1 057 952	626 465
Tsuen Wan	Shek Wai Kok	116 105	77 714
	Tsuen Wan	1 107 659	1 107 031
Tuen Mun	Butterfly Estate	166 047	118 908
	Tai Hing	323 764	171 583
	Tuen Mun	1 253 363	1 253 601
Yuen Long	Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai	1 140 411	961 081
	Tin Shui Wai North	310 857	125 614
	Yuen Long	1 044 427	720 573
Total		34 297 984	26 309 041

Note

The North Lamma Public Library (Small Library) was reopened in June 2019 after reconstruction with enhanced facilities and services.

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