

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB450**

**(Question Serial No. 3541)**

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:

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 and number of loans, the construction cost and operating cost of the 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 and number of loans, the 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 and number of loans, the 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 number of public library books reported lost in the past 3 years and the amount of fines not recovered.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

- a. and b. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has launched a pilot scheme to provide 3 self-service library stations, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. Self-service library stations located on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon were opened on 5 December 2017 and 13 December 2018 respectively. Up to the end of February 2019, these 2 library stations have recorded a total of 35 473 loans since the launch and the attendance record is not available. In 2018-19, the non-recurrent cost (excluding the costs of site preparation) and the recurrent cost for library stations (excluding the cost of library staff redeployed from other library facilities) is about \$2.6 million and \$3.3 million respectively.

The third library station in the New Territories is planned to be opened in mid-2019. After the launch of all 3 library stations under the pilot scheme, the LCSD will conduct a review to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, feedback of the users, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of extending the service to other locations and seek additional funding as required.

- c. and d. The LCSD has enhanced the mobile library service progressively since July 2014 by introducing 2 new mobile library vans and reshuffling the routes of the existing mobile library vans. Since then, 19 mobile library stops have been added or are being arranged. As at March 2019, the LCSD operated 12 mobile library vans serving 113 mobile library stops. The usage and attendance of 12 mobile libraries in the past 3 years are set out in table below.

<b>12 Mobile Libraries</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Total attendance	424 828	410 056	390 759
Total number of library material borrowed	656 231	627 960	588 468

The LCSD will continue to monitor and review the usage of its mobile library services for the effective utilisation of resources to better serve the public. In late 2019-20, the LCSD will launch a “Library-on-Wheels” pilot project under which a small-scale mobile library will be flexibly deployed to locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing library facilities during different operating hours or to tie in with major community events.

- e. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) currently operates 70 static libraries. The annual attendance figures and number of loans of each of the static public library of the LCSD in 2018 are tabulated at [Annex](#).

All libraries under the HKPL are inter-connected by an integrated automated library system. The total operating expenditures for providing the library services are about \$1,047 million, \$1,099 million and \$1,179 million in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 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 libraries (both static and mobile libraries) is not available.

There was no new static library opened in 2018. Regarding the construction cost of a new library in 2017, the Yuen Long Public Library was reprovisioned to the new premises with enhanced facilities and services in June. It was part of the capital works project under “Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 3, Yuen Long” at a total project cost of about \$704.1 million.

- f. A new district library in the North West Kowloon Reclamation Area Site 6 in the Sham Shui Po District is under construction and the works are anticipated to be completed in 2020. In addition, the LCSD is planning a new district library in the proposed Government Joint Users Complex at Lei King Road in the Eastern District.
- g. For the past 3 years, the number of books reported loss at public libraries and the outstanding amount of overdue fines not yet settled are provided in the following table –

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of books reported loss</b>	<b>Amount of outstanding overdue fines<sup>(Note)</sup> (\$'000)</b>
2016-17	11 156	591
2017-18	10 759	748
2018-19	10 258	1,286

Note

It was the amount accrued in the library system as at 11 March 2019.

**Annual Attendance Figures and Number of Loans of Static Public Libraries in 2018**

District	Static public libraries	2018	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
<b>Hong Kong Island</b>			
Central & Western	City Hall	793 917	744 217
	Shek Tong Tsui	495 452	415 282
	Smithfield	281 722	223 077
Eastern	Chai Wan	549 486	479 382
	Electric Road	252 381	209 439
	North Point	310 039	227 306
	Quarry Bay	510 706	448 361
	Siu Sai Wan	408 203	243 350
	Yiu Tung	166 915	138 731
Southern	Aberdeen	513 630	465 602
	Ap Lei Chau	225 641	257 602
	Pok Fu Lam	206 067	197 425
	Stanley	135 680	120 883
Wanchai	Hong Kong Central Library	4 017 675	1 441 725
	Lockhart Road	527 578	397 687
	Wong Nai Chung	162 936	99 255
<b>Kowloon</b>			
Kowloon City	Hung Hom	318 146	296 243
	Kowloon	612 432	660 888
	Kowloon City	207 805	225 708
	To Kwa Wan	518 434	338 575
Kwun Tong	Lam Tin	909 935	577 396
	Lei Yue Mun	144 122	197 976
	Ngau Tau Kok	512 463	390 568
	Sau Mau Ping	148 151	146 379
	Shui Wo Street	535 129	422 786
	Shun Lee Estate	155 907	227 833

District	Static public libraries	2018	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok	731 111	631 141
	Po On Road	913 356	462 005
	Shek Kip Mei	275 664	299 217
	Un Chau Street	280 572	169 225
Wong Tai Sin	Fu Shan	191 633	123 952
	Lok Fu	267 891	195 809
	Lung Hing	322 523	190 762
	Ngau Chi Wan	411 874	490 625
	San Po Kong	712 553	451 775
	Tsz Wan Shan	375 177	248 403
Yau Tsim Mong	Fa Yuen Street	546 933	409 507
	Tai Kok Tsui	431 427	320 238
	Tsim Sha Tsui	147 681	287 119
	Yau Ma Tei	516 696	441 017
<b>New Territories</b>			
Islands	Cheung Chau	202 462	73 437
	Mui Wo	46 096	22 588
	North Lamma	5 545	10 855
	Peng Chau	32 165	33 498
	South Lamma	1 493	426
	Tai O	32 035	7 473
	Tung Chung	477 226	547 635
Kwai Tsing	North Kwai Chung	486 513	273 956
	South Kwai Chung	649 216	576 572
	Tsing Yi	729 551	520 843
North	Fanling	610 178	449 615
	Fanling South	305 710	239 250
	Sha Tau Kok	27 025	10 358
	Sheung Shui	754 361	411 664
Sai Kung	Sai Kung	303 806	323 193
	Tiu Keng Leng	926 497	870 300
	Tseung Kwan O	667 166	905 713

District	Static public libraries	2018	
		Total attendance	Total number of library materials borrowed
Sha Tin	Lek Yuen	215 587	103 700
	Ma On Shan	855 276	634 287
	Sha Tin	1 128 258	1 143 975
	Yuen Chau Kok	668 592	656 264
Tai Po	Tai Po	1 079 983	713 630
Tsuen Wan	Shek Wai Kok	118 578	79 405
	Tsuen Wan	1 185 457	1 142 846
Tuen Mun	Butterfly Estate	180 022	126 133
	Tai Hing	324 827	195 606
	Tuen Mun	1 285 027	1 212 793
Yuen Long	Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai	1 192 715	962 376
	Tin Shui Wai North	380 238	135 541
	Yuen Long	1 046 875	729 278
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35 664 123</b>	<b>27 427 681</b>

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