

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB129

(Question Serial No. 3192)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums, (5) Public Libraries
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

While the usage of e-book collections of local public libraries has increased substantially in recent years, the total attendance of libraries and the number of materials borrowed have been decreasing for years. According to the General Revenue Account, Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Home Affairs Bureau in 2021-22 include providing steer on the enhancement of public museum and library services. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the attendance figures of various public museums and libraries in various districts in the past 3 financial years?
2. Please tabulate the respective numbers of books that were newly acquired and those that were written off in the past 3 financial years with a breakdown by District Council district.
3. Libraries all over the world are facing the same challenges. To reform the library functions, it is a major trend to tie in with community needs and develop libraries into hubs of activities and learning for the public, narrowing down the knowledge gap among people. Will the Government consider integrating libraries into the community, and trying to provide facilities such as musical performance areas, music rehearsal rooms, theatres and bicycle parking spaces in addition to books for loan by the public, similar to libraries in western countries, so as to allow the public to enjoy different services in libraries, thereby bringing a sparking effect to the relationship between libraries and the public and increasing the number of library visitors?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. Attendance figures of museums and public libraries under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 3 financial years are set out at **Annex**.

2. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) maintains an integrated and inter-connected network of static libraries and mobile libraries with access to its entire library collections. Acquisition and withdrawal of library materials are processed centrally, and books can be transferred between libraries from time to time. The number of books acquired and withdrawn by the HKPL in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of newly acquired books (items)	Number of books withdrawn (items)
2018-19	690 000	450 000
2019-20	670 000	460 000
2020-21 ^(Note) (as at 28 February 2021)	530 000	130 000

Note: The number of books withdrawn in 2020-21 is lower than that in 2019-20 since the withdrawal of some books for 2020-21 has yet to be approved.

3. The LCSD is committed to providing public library services to meet the community's need for knowledge, information, self-learning and continuous education, to support profitable use of leisure time, and to promote local literary arts. In response to the change of social role of public libraries in the modern era and the development of Hong Kong society and people's lifestyle, the HKPL has formulated a strategic plan as the blueprint for the development of its services and liaised with/engaged stakeholders to collect views from the public and local community on library services, facilities, collections and future needs. Opinion surveys, usage and data analysis as well as a review of the development of public library systems in different cities of the world have also been conducted. The HKPL adopts a multi-pronged approach to develop, enhance and promote library services in order to keep abreast with the needs of the public/social development. As for the development of hardware, new library facilities are planned as appropriate having regard to district development, the availability of resources and technical feasibility, which includes actively exploring the feasibility of incorporating library facilities into the proposed projects of other cultural and recreation/community facilities/other government public service facilities for collaborative planning and development, so as to optimise the use of "Government, Institution or Community" sites for public facilities while enhancing the synergy of the service delivery of new facilities to bring greater convenience and appeal to the public. In addition, the LCSD will carry out renovation/minor refurbishment at existing libraries for facility enhancement where technically feasible and resources are available. Design elements will be employed for creation/flexible use of space, with facility of user-friendly design and set up so as to rebrand libraries as the community's focal points. As for software, the HKPL will continue to explore and develop different modes of service delivery to enhance the reading experience of the public, and arouse public awareness of reading and stimulate interest in reading among members of the public by organising diversified activities at libraries, in order that it will assume its full role of promoting reading and lifelong learning as well as becoming the community's cultural focal points in support of Hong Kong's development as a smart city.

**Attendance of Museums and Public Libraries
under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
from 2018-19 to 2020-21**

(A) Museums

Museums		2018-19	2019-20⁽¹⁾	2020-21^{(1) (2)}
1	Hong Kong Museum of Art ⁽³⁾	-	116 493	199 406
2	Hong Kong Museum of History ⁽⁴⁾	1 238 417	654 849	118 593
3	Hong Kong Heritage Museum	660 506	538 610	83 252
4	Hong Kong Science Museum	1 285 870	875 809	90 058
5	Hong Kong Space Museum ⁽⁵⁾	983 175	652 833	55 466
6	Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence ⁽⁶⁾	64 507	-	-
7	Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	90 558	56 184	10 811
8	Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	64 146	40 021	18 849
9	Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	198 203	108 760	24 267
10	Hong Kong Railway Museum	277 775	200 702	66 779
11	Law Uk Folk Museum	16 164	9 771	2 875
12	Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	41 173	35 033	9 041
13	Sam Tung Uk Museum	116 451	68 339	9 189
14	Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	42 590	30 015	16 860
15	Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	75 156	42 494	12 907
16	Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)	180 627	129 708	39 011
17	Hong Kong Film Archive	145 490	106 203	21 205
Total		5 480 808	3 665 824	778 569

Notes

- (1) Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, museums and venues under the LCSD were temporarily and intermittently closed.
- (2) Attendance as at 28 February 2021.
- (3) The Hong Kong Museum of Art was reopened on 30 November 2019 upon completion of renovation.
- (4) The permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Museum of History has been temporarily closed since 19 October 2020 for renovation.
- (5) The Space Theatre of the Hong Kong Space Museum has been temporarily closed since 1 May 2020 for renovation.
- (6) The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence has been temporarily closed since September 2018 for major repair and renovation.

(B) Public Libraries

Public Libraries		2018-19	2019-20 ⁽⁷⁾	2020-21 ^{(7) (8)}
Static Libraries				
Central and Western	City Hall	797 700	647 865	165 309
	Shek Tong Tsui	495 919	416 699	76 678
	Smithfield	289 393	237 967	31 474
Eastern	Chai Wan	545 505	445 235	89 643
	Electric Road	251 687	205 620	21 795
	North Point	310 399	258 031	79 721
	Quarry Bay	512 655	376 897	53 534
	Siu Sai Wan	406 048	277 715	70 902
	Yiu Tung	158 950	116 727	18 248
Southern	Aberdeen	509 837	493 160	85 986
	Ap Lei Chau	226 950	182 712	20 217
	Pok Fu Lam	205 007	165 487	21 956
	Stanley	137 487	118 795	13 641
Wan Chai	Hong Kong Central Library	3 955 175	2 891 601	483 743
	Lockhart Road	520 006	398 267	91 215
	Wong Nai Chung	165 099	143 689	19 031
Kowloon City	Hung Hom	316 979	254 642	35 148
	Kowloon	614 491	512 237	146 970
	Kowloon City	211 363	186 973	27 111
	To Kwa Wan	515 428	424 021	90 099
Kwun Tong	Lam Tin	907 792	675 974	114 498
	Lei Yue Mun	143 696	98 048	18 576
	Ngau Tau Kok	507 527	418 635	77 563
	Sau Mau Ping	145 400	117 836	21 791
	Shui Wo Street	536 002	445 642	81 093
	Shun Lee Estate	159 245	144 848	22 753
Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok	735 070	617 081	125 190
	Po On Road	904 294	769 748	123 077
	Shek Kip Mei	278 271	235 780	32 354
	Un Chau Street	282 068	231 736	25 078

Public Libraries		2018-19	2019-20 ⁽⁷⁾	2020-21 ^{(7) (8)}
Wong Tai Sin	Fu Shan	191 310	159 205	18 124
	Lok Fu	264 637	194 312	27 065
	Lung Hing	321 311	260 514	34 240
	Ngau Chi Wan	409 984	334 326	64 956
	San Po Kong	725 688	635 465	107 344
	Tsz Wan Shan	377 996	314 699	32 441
Yau Tsim Mong	Fa Yuen Street	542 850	420 084	89 421
	Tai Kok Tsui	427 940	358 933	29 783
	Tsim Sha Tsui	147 522	111 661	18 700
	Yau Ma Tei ⁽⁹⁾	510 108	411 014	96 453
Islands	Cheung Chau	202 950	167 725	29 557
	Mui Wo	46 800	38 775	6 198
	North Lamma ⁽¹⁰⁾	5 517	42 264	10 840
	Peng Chau	32 353	27 211	5 119
	South Lamma	1 529	1 104	177
	Tai O	31 925	26 380	3 712
	Tung Chung	469 909	367 033	87 920
Kwai Tsing	North Kwai Chung	483 532	403 831	83 965
	South Kwai Chung	644 663	514 406	73 623
	Tsing Yi	730 812	599 605	138 832
North	Fanling	608 843	509 067	113 900
	Fanling South	305 106	253 243	44 796
	Sha Tau Kok	26 847	20 636	2 880
	Sheung Shui	753 592	560 296	83 695
Sai Kung	Sai Kung	303 463	264 674	50 073
	Tiu Keng Leng	932 650	759 794	158 053
	Tseung Kwan O	645 636	528 645	97 396
Sha Tin	Lek Yuen	212 411	166 035	14 136
	Ma On Shan	850 443	704 307	155 559
	Sha Tin	1 125 470	849 966	212 511
	Yuen Chau Kok	666 371	519 454	123 808
Tai Po	Tai Po	1 078 547	884 180	181 926
Tsuen Wan	Shek Wai Kok	117 445	95 187	3 973
	Tsuen Wan	1 201 245	909 131	210 719

Public Libraries		2018-19	2019-20⁽⁷⁾	2020-21^{(7) (8)}
Tuen Mun	Butterfly Estate	178 875	136 044	17 020
	Tai Hing	324 943	272 530	71 896
	Tuen Mun	1 283 395	1 052 015	264 677
Yuen Long	Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai	1 199 831	948 372	173 020
	Tin Shui Wai North	355 495	263 198	27 562
	Yuen Long	1 053 306	873 925	176 744
Mobile Libraries				
Mobile Libraries 1-12		398 452	323 550	60 519
Total		35 937 145	28 792 464	5 487 727

Notes

- (7) Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all public libraries under the LCSD have been closed and services have been suspended temporarily and intermittently since 29 January 2020.
- (8) Attendance as at 28 February 2021.
- (9) Yau Ma Tei Public Library (District Library) was reprovisioned to the new premises in December 2020 with enhanced facilities and services.
- (10) North Lamma Public Library (Small Library) was reopened in June 2019 after in-situ reconstruction with enhanced facilities and services.

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