

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB170

(Question Serial No. 2362)

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:

1. Please list the respective expenditures of libraries on e-books in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
2. Please list the respective number of Chinese and English titles in each of the e-book databases in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
3. Please provide the number of loans of e-books via the Internet, and Chinese and English titles of the top 10 e-books in terms of circulation in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
4. What measures have been adopted by libraries to promote the loans of e-books under the pandemic and what is the related expenditure?
5. What measures will the Government adopt in 2021-22 to promote e-books and what is the expenditure involved?
6. Please list the respective number of views of the Multimedia Information System (MMIS) of the Hong Kong Public Libraries in the past 3 years.
7. What is the estimated expenditure related to the MMIS in 2021-22? What plan does the Government have to increase the MMIS collection?
8. For some materials in the MMIS, only certain parts are available for online viewing. Take *Hong Kong Yearbook* of which the copyright belongs to the Government as an example, only the first 20 pages are available for viewing in the system. What are the reasons for this situation? Will the Government consider implementing improvements to similar situations to enhance the MMIS?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditures on acquisition or subscription of e-book collections in 2020-21 and 2021-22 are \$6.24 million and \$7.3 million respectively.

2. As at 31 December 2020, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) acquired or subscribed to 11 e-book collections with about 378 000 items. The number of titles of the 11 e-book collections are at **Annex I**. The HKPL plans to acquire about 30 000 additional copies of e-books of different categories in 2021-22, including more e-books published in Hong Kong and e-books suitable for children and youths, covering various disciplines and different types of leisure reading materials, so as to encourage e-reading and meet public demand for e-books.
3. The usage statistics of the 11 e-book collections in 2019 and 2020 are at **Annex II**, and the titles of the top 10 Chinese and English e-books in terms of circulation are at **Annex III**.
4. In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), while aligning with the Government's anti-epidemic measures, has further enhanced the promotion of the HKPL's e-services, including "Online Registration for Borrowers" and the e-book promotion campaign "Take a Break - eReading Corner", to facilitate readers' access to e-book collections upon login with their library accounts. Meanwhile, demonstration videos on the e-book collections have been produced for publicity via the "Reading is Joyful" website and social media platforms, with a view to encouraging members of the public to keep reading at home. The manpower and expenditures involved will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure and estimates for the reading promotion campaign of the LCSD.
5. In 2021-22, the HKPL will continue to produce demonstration videos on how to use the different e-book collections and upload them to the LCSD Edutainment Channel; step up promotion of theme-based reading on the HKPL website and social media; continue to organise the e-book promotion campaign "Take a Break - eReading Corner"; and participate in the Hong Kong Book Fair and the Learning and Teaching Expo to promote its e-resources. The HKPL will continue to organise library outreach programmes, pay visits to schools/community groups/organisations, and promote the e-book collections to various sectors of the community through regular user education sessions, liaison activities for readers and teachers, and other publicity channels such as social media. Furthermore, the HKPL will step up advocacy to primary and secondary schools to encourage the schools to make use of the free e-resources of the HKPL in facilitation of distance learning by the students. The manpower and expenditures involved in the above promotion activities/programmes will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure and estimates for the reading promotion campaign of the LCSD.
6. The use count of library materials in the Multimedia Information System (MMIS) of the HKPL in 2018, 2019 and 2020 is 5.55 million, 5.64 million and 7.08 million respectively.
7. In 2021-22, the HKPL plans to add about 60 000 digitised pages of images including old newspapers, photographs, maps, manuscripts and so forth as well as 350 hours of audiovisual recordings to the MMIS. The estimated expenditure is about \$300,000.
8. The HKPL will make digital collections in the MMIS available to the public depending on the access right of the licence granted by the copyright owner. Owing to functional constraints of the existing reading software, certain materials that contain many pages,

such as *Hong Kong Yearbook*, have to be split into separate volumes, each volume containing about 20 pages, for viewing after digitalisation, so as to ensure smooth browsing. To browse all the contents, users may click the volume icon in blue at the top left corner of the reading software to view the list of volumes of the book. The HKPL will enhance the reading software to improve the reading experience when the new library system is developed.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Number of Titles of e-Book Collections in 2020**

Item	Title of e-Book Collection	Total Number of Titles ⁽¹⁾
<i>Chinese e-Book Databases</i>		
1	HyRead ebook	14 646
2	SUEP e-Book	5 406
3	Apabi Chinese eBooks	108 263
4	Funpark	444
5	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	470
<i>English e-Book Databases</i>		
6	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽²⁾	197 054
7	eBooks on EBSCOhost	26 439
8	OverDrive eBooks	11 094
9	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	13 314
10-11	Safari Books Online ⁽³⁾	1 005
Total		378 135

Notes

- (1) 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.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Usage of e-Book Collections (2019 to 2020)**

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 usage statistics of e-book collections of the Hong Kong Public Libraries provided by individual e-book database service providers from 2019 to 2020 are tabulated below.

Item	Title of e-Book Collection ⁽¹⁾	Statistical Elements Adopted	Use Count	
			2019	2020
<i>Collections adopting similar statistical elements based on the number of e-Books consulted</i>				
1	HyRead ebook	online reading, borrowing and trial	600 520	2 009 714
2	SUEP e-Book	online reading, borrowing and trial	211 572	961 564
3	Apabi Chinese eBooks	online reading and borrowing	54 572	118 916
4	FunPark	online reading	30 350	136 640
5	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽²⁾	online reading and download	23 135	35 571
6	eBooks on EBSCOhost	online reading and download	24 899	52 668
7	OverDrive eBooks (launched in February 2019)	borrowing	18 962	83 231
Total			964 010	3 398 304
<i>Collections adopting other statistical elements</i>				
8	Naxos Spoken Word Library (Audio book)	tracks played	28 949	42 976
9	Vista E-Book in Traditional Chinese	browses by category	11 821	27 356
10-11	Safari Books Online ⁽³⁾	searches	7 502	11 727

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, OverDrive eBooks, Naxos Spoken Word Library and Safari Books Online are English e-book databases.
- (2) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.
- (3) Including Safari Business Books Online and Safari Tech Books Online.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries
Top 10 e-Book Titles in Terms of Usage in 2020**

Different service providers have used different statistical elements, such as numbers of e-books consulted, searches, tracks played, browses by category, to present the usage of their databases. The top 10 e-book titles in terms of usage are tabulated below.

Table 1 (Chinese e-Books)

Item	Title	Online Reading, Borrowing and Trial	Title of e-Book Collection
1	嗯……便便出來吧！	8 934	HyRead ebook
2	哆啦A夢，冰天雪地冒險包	8 917	HyRead ebook
3	角落小夥伴的生活之角落小夥伴名言	8 709	HyRead ebook
4	不愛乾淨的小瑪	6 623	HyRead ebook
5	你是媽媽眼中獨一無二的孩子	6 165	HyRead ebook
6	末日恐龍王：地球的五次生物大滅絕	5 509	HyRead ebook
7	肥皂超人出擊！	5 454	HyRead ebook
8	大膽的老婆婆	5 314	HyRead ebook
9	被討厭的勇氣：自我啟發之父「阿德勒」的教導	5 079	HyRead ebook
10	小青蛙愛靜坐	4 525	SUEP e-Book

Table 2 (English e-Books)

Item	Title	Online Reading and Download	Title of e-Book Collection
1	Dinosaur Boy: Dinosaur Boy Series, Book 1	622	OverDrive eBooks
2	How to Catch a Unicorn	456	OverDrive eBooks
3	How to Catch a Mermaid	348	OverDrive eBooks
4	The Doughnut Fix Series, Book 1	274	OverDrive eBooks
5	Niko Draws a Feeling	223	OverDrive eBooks
6	Welcome Home, Bear!	183	eBooks on EBSCO <i>host</i>
7	Aaron Space	171	eBooks on EBSCO <i>host</i>
8	The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane: Black Hollow Lane Series, Book 1	160	OverDrive eBooks
9	The Harry Potter Series	156	eBooks on EBSCO <i>host</i>
10	Splash and Bubbles: I Love to Swim!	145	eBooks on EBSCO <i>host</i>

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Table 1 (Chinese e-Books)

Item	Title	Online Reading, Borrowing and Trial	Title of e-Book Collection
1	被討厭的勇氣：自我啟發之父「阿德勒」的教導	2 201	HyRead ebook
2	現金流為王	1 781	SUEP e-Book
3	大富翁致富藍圖	1 475	SUEP e-Book
4	50優質潛力股	1 431	SUEP e-Book
5	黃阿瑪的後宮生活：貓永遠是對的	1 409	HyRead ebook
6	角落小夥伴的生活之角落小夥伴名言	1 303	HyRead ebook
7	為了活下去：脫北女孩朴研美	1 279	HyRead ebook
8	比小說更好看的理財故事書：巴比倫富翁的秘密	1 257	HyRead ebook
9	日語333超快速學習法：3個訣竅，3個階段，3天說一口流利日語	1 251	HyRead ebook
10	21世紀的21堂課	1 248	HyRead ebook

Table 2 (English e-Books)

Item	Title	Online Reading and Download	Title of e-Book Collection
1	Social Psychology	266	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾
2	The Most Important Thing Illuminated : Uncommon Sense for the Thoughtful Investor	130	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾
3	The Rise of Modern Philosophy : A New History of Western Philosophy, Volume 3	128	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾
4	Big Nate: I Can't Take It!	123	OverDrive eBooks
5	My Little Forest	113	eBooks on EBSCOhost
6	Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling	108	ProQuest Ebook Central ⁽¹⁾
7	Curious George Good Night, Zoo (CGTV)	85	eBooks on EBSCOhost
	Five Funny Bunnies	85	eBooks on EBSCOhost
	Light	85	eBooks on EBSCOhost
	The Frozen Rainbow	85	eBooks on EBSCOhost
8	Garfield Volume 1	83	OverDrive eBooks
9	Click	82	eBooks on EBSCOhost
10	The World's Best Jokes for Kids Volume 1	81	eBooks on EBSCOhost

Note

(1) Formerly known as ebrary Academic Complete.

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