

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB173**

**(Question Serial No. 3130)**

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:

With regard to the public library services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective number of loans of Chinese and English books from public libraries in the past year? What were the respective number of loans of locally published Chinese and English books?
- (b) What was the total expenditure on the acquisition of books by public libraries in the past year? What were the respective expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books? What are the estimated expenditures on the acquisition of locally published Chinese and English books and the total expenditure on book acquisition for the coming year?
- (c) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children which are available for loan, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired in the past financial year. What was the number of books acquired and the expenditure incurred, as well as the number of loans for the books in the financial year? (Note: Please exclude the publications of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority acquired.)

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works				
Philosophy				
Religion				
Social Sciences				

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of copies acquired	Number of copies acquired in the financial year	Expenditure on acquisition	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
Language				
Natural Science				
Applied Science				
Arts				
Literature				
History				
Fiction				
Junior Fiction				
Picture Books				

- (d) For the English books for adults/English books for children/Chinese books for adults/Chinese books for children, please list under the categories in the table below titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the past financial year. What was the number of copies in the library collection, and what was the number of loans for the books in the financial year?

	Titles of the top 10 books in terms of circulation	Number of copies in the library collection	Number of loans of the book in the financial year
General Works			
Philosophy			
Religion			
Social Sciences			
Language			
Natural Science			
Applied Science			
Arts			
Literature			
History			
Fiction			
Junior Fiction			
Picture Books			

- (e) Please list in the table below the number of books registered at the Books Registration Office in the past financial year.

	Number of registered Chinese books	Number of registered Chinese books published by local publishers	Number of registered English books	Number of registered English books published by local publishers	Overall number of registered books
2020-21					

- (f) The LCSD indicated that the “Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture” will be implemented for 3 years starting from 2020 for the publishing sector to develop a new electronic database of book data for local publications. What were the progress of implementation of the programme and the expenditure involved in the past year? When is the database expected to be launched?
- (g) What were the staff establishment and expenditure for the provision of lending services in public libraries in the past year?
- (h) How much was spent for the acquisition of music and video materials as well as the copyrights of music and video materials in the past year?
- (i) How does the Government assess the loss caused by the acquisition and the number of loans of these books to the sales of books written and published locally and the copyright of their authors? When will the Government consider introducing the “public lending right” to promote local writing and publishing and strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) The total number of loans of Chinese and English books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2020 were 17.86 million and 5.2 million respectively, of which there were 8.32 million and 0.28 million loans of locally published Chinese and English books.
- (b) The estimated expenditure in 2020-21 for the acquisition of books for the HKPL is about \$45 million, including \$11.35 million and \$0.78 million for Chinese and English books published in Hong Kong respectively. The projected expenditure for 2021-22 for the acquisition of books will be about \$50 million and the estimated expenditure for locally published Chinese and English books will be maintained at similar levels.
- (c) Due to system constraint and the time required for data compilation, the HKPL can only provide the information on the top 5 titles in terms of copies acquired by classification for adult and children books in 2020-21 in May 2021.
- (d) As the information is not readily available due to system constraint, the HKPL can provide information on the top 10 books in terms of circulation in the calendar year of 2020 and in 8 categories of books namely, adult Chinese fiction/non-fiction; junior

Chinese fiction/non-fiction; adult English fiction/non-fiction; junior English fiction/non-fiction. Details are at the Annex.

- (e) The number of books registered with the Books Registration Office in 2020-21 is set out below:

Financial Year	Number of registered books			
	Chinese	English	Bilingual, other languages and government publications	Total
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	8 723	2 265	3 339	14 327

Remark: All the registered books are published by local publishers.

- (f) An additional funding of \$30 million was provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to implement the “Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture” (Pilot Programme) for 3 years, with a view to supporting local authors and local publications, encouraging the sector to utilise electronic platform, as well as promoting Hong Kong’s quality reading culture. The Pilot Programme includes developing a new electronic database of book data for local publications, with enriched book data for the public to discover quality books. The database and webpage were launched in April 2020 to display selected local publications. As at February 2021, there were about 67 000 entries of book data in the database, with more to come gradually. In addition, promotion materials about local authors and publications are provided under the Pilot Programme, and there are currently about 1 200 promotion materials. In the past year, the HKPL invited local authors to attend online library promotion activities, by means of the Pilot Programme, including “Interaction with Authors”, “15-minute Read” and Online Reading Club of the Hong Kong Library Festival 2020, to further promote local publications, authors and reading culture. The expenditure for the Pilot Programme in 2020-21 was \$10.82 million (estimated).
- (g) The staff establishment for providing library services, including lending services, under Programme (5): Public Libraries as at 1 April 2020 was 1 493 and the estimated staff cost for 2020-21 is \$620.3 million.
- (h) The HKPL enters into contracts with suppliers of audio-visual materials under which the HKPL is granted the right or licence to provide such materials for reading, listening or viewing at designated libraries as well as the right to lend audio materials to any third party. Apart from paying contractual fees to the suppliers, the HKPL is not required to pay extra charge for the provision of the above-mentioned services on a loan basis since it is stipulated in the contracts that the suppliers should ensure that the audio-visual materials supplied to the public libraries can be used without any restriction. In 2020-21, the estimated expenditure for the purchase of music and video materials is about \$8.6 million.

Separately, the HKPL pays royalties/licence fees to the registered licensing bodies for the public performance of music and background music during events held in the libraries and the hiring units of the Hong Kong Central Library, as well as the showing and playing of music works at individual workstations of public libraries. The total amount of royalties/licence fees paid for the copyrights of music and video materials to relevant licensing bodies in 2020-21 is about \$0.5 million.

- (i) There are still divergent views on public lending right in the international community and the claim that public library service reduces primary sales of books is unproven. The Government understands that a flourishing publishing industry is vital to the supply of a wide variety of quality reading materials for promoting a reading culture in Hong Kong. In this connection, the LCSD has been maintaining close contact with the publishing sector to explore different measures to support the long-term development of the sector. The LCSD, after discussion with the publishing sector, provided additional resources to implement the aforementioned Pilot Programme in April 2020, which aims at widely supporting the publishing sector and authors in Hong Kong, promoting healthy development of the publishing sector, thus achieving the same objective of public lending right proposed by the sector.

**Hong Kong Public Libraries  
Top 10 Books in Terms of Circulation in 2020**

**Table 1 (Adult Chinese Fiction)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number of Copies in the Library Collection</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
1.	射鵰英雄傳 <sup>(1)</sup>	875	5 156
2.	神鵰俠侶 <sup>(1)</sup>	923	3 936
3.	倚天屠龍記 <sup>(1)</sup>	759	3 792
4.	第十一號羅蜜歐	215	3 439
5.	鹿鼎記 <sup>(1)</sup>	829	3 425
6.	船屋	215	3 277
7.	有限溫存	212	3 170
8.	好好好	215	3 157
9.	結或不結 離或不離	215	3 096
10.	1984 <sup>(1)</sup>	281	2 934

**Table 2 (Adult Chinese Non-fiction)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number of Copies in the Library Collection</b>	<b>Number of Loans</b>
1.	財務自由行 <sup>(1)</sup>	304	3 535
2.	大阪・京都 <sup>(1)</sup>	831	3 431
3.	九州 <sup>(1)</sup>	518	3 250
4.	九州攻略完全制霸 <sup>(1)</sup>	514	3 063
5.	選股與估值：價值投資的得勝之道 <sup>(1)</sup>	359	3 036
6.	英國王：英格蘭・蘇格蘭・威爾士・北愛爾蘭 <sup>(1)</sup>	385	2 943
7.	80後百萬富翁 <sup>(1)</sup>	250	2 835
8.	東京近郊攻略完全制霸 <sup>(1)</sup>	399	2 777
9.	東京食玩買終極天書 <sup>(1)</sup>	749	2 725
10.	東京 <sup>(1)</sup>	524	2 621

**Table 3 (Junior Chinese Fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	西遊記 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 439	7 954
2.	三國演義 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 166	7 875
3.	水滸傳 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 333	6 075
4.	小王子 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 910	5 591
5.	愛麗絲夢遊仙境／愛麗絲夢遊奇境 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 641	3 968
6.	一千零一夜／天方夜譚 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 469	3 831
7.	綠野仙蹤 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 303	3 728
8.	紅樓夢 <sup>(1)</sup>	910	3 544
9.	小婦人 <sup>(1)</sup>	1 036	3 221
10.	童話夢工場·6, 拇指姑娘與豆丁王子 (童話夢工場) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	220	3 021

**Table 4 (Junior Chinese Non-fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	什麼都不愛吃的皮皮(新雅·繪本館) <sup>(2)</sup>	238	2 992
2.	壞種子(格林名家繪本館) <sup>(2)</sup>	168	2 881
3.	幼兒情緒翻翻書(新雅·寶寶心靈館) <sup>(2)</sup>	240	2 836
4.	這本書教你分左右	241	2 731
5.	別在超市裏搗蛋(社區體驗系列) <sup>(2)</sup>	240	2 697
6.	不准電視機吃飯 (物教育繪本) <sup>(2)</sup>	240	2 679
7.	認真的西蘭花 (新雅·繪本館 菜園繪本系列) <sup>(2)</sup>	238	2 656
8.	正義使者：晃晃星人之卷 (精選圖畫書) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	246	2 610
9.	我會自己刷牙(小象帕歐繪本系列) <sup>(2)</sup>	240	2 447
10.	不愛刷牙的小虎 (培養好習慣) <sup>(2)</sup>	200	2 349

**Table 5 (Adult English Fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	The five people you meet in heaven	139	808
2.	The next person you meet in Heaven <sup>(1)</sup>	59	635
3.	Animal farm: a fairy story <sup>(1)</sup>	84	621
4.	The hobbit, or, There and back again <sup>(1)</sup>	144	605
5.	The Great Gatsby <sup>(1)</sup>	160	599
6.	The time keeper	109	583
7.	Murder on the Orient Express <sup>(1)</sup>	72	507
8.	For one more day <sup>(1)</sup>	121	501
9.	Nineteen eighty-four <sup>(1)</sup>	81	500
10.	The fellowship of the ring: being the first part of The lord of the rings [The lord of the rings] <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	136	499

**Table 6 (Adult English Non-fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. English language 2019. <sup>(2)</sup>	205	2 256
2.	Becoming <sup>(1)</sup>	160	1 665
3.	Language proficiency assessment for teachers. English language ... question papers	143	1 170
4.	21 lessons for the 21st century <sup>(1)</sup>	102	1 081
5.	Thinking, fast and slow	106	1 069
6.	Cambridge English IELTS. 10: with answers: authentic examination papers from Cambridge English language assessment. (IELTS practice tests series) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	73	950
7.	Hong Kong taxation and tax planning <sup>(1)</sup>	166	827
8.	Barron's essential words for the IELTS <sup>(1)</sup>	70	817
9.	Sapiens: a brief history of humankind <sup>(1)</sup>	72	775
10.	On tyranny: twenty lessons from the twentieth century	70	734



**Table 7 (Junior English Fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	Charlie and the chocolate factory <sup>(1)</sup>	372	2 478
2.	Harry Potter and the chamber of secrets (Harry Potter series) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	307	2 242
3.	The guardian of the realm: the eleventh adventure in the Kingdom of Fantasy (Kingdom of Fantasy) <sup>(2)</sup>	154	1 881
4.	The hunt for the Colosseum ghost (Geronimo Stilton special edition) <sup>(2)</sup>	149	1 602
5.	The Land of Flowers: a Geronimo Stilton adventure (Thea Stilton special edition) <sup>(2)</sup>	144	1 597
6. <sup>(4)</sup>	No time to lose: the fifth journey through time (Journey through time) <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	155	1 551
6. <sup>(4)</sup>	The Twits <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	212	1 551
8.	Matilda <sup>(1)</sup>	224	1 368
9.	The hunt for the curious cheese (Geronimo Stilton) <sup>(2)</sup>	150	1 358
10.	Charlie and the great glass elevator <sup>(1)</sup>	271	1 354

**Table 8 (Junior English Non-fiction)**

Item	Title	Number of Copies in the Library Collection	Number of Loans
1.	The laughing princess (Oxford reading tree) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	346	2 407
2.	My little pony: friendship is magic	231	2 116
3.	The first hippo on the moon <sup>(1)</sup>	112	1 544
4.	The bear who went boo! <sup>(1)</sup>	84	1 349
5.	Maisy's bus (My friend Maisy) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	55	1 257
6.	Dog Man: brawl of the wild (Dog Man) <sup>(2)</sup>	90	1 253
7.	Max and Marla are having a picnic	55	1 213
8.	Peppa's first colors. (Peppa Pig) <sup>(2)</sup>	73	1 197
9.	Truck full of ducks	55	1 195
10.	Good night, Sophie: a touch and feel book (Sophie la girafe) <sup>(2)</sup>	83	1 188

## Notes

- (1) Including books of different editions/years of publication of the same title (only the information of the first volume will be provided if the books were published with multiple volumes).
- (2) For a series of books under the same title, only the information of the books with the highest circulation will be provided.
- (3) Books with the same number of loans are listed in alphabetical order of the titles.
- (4) The numbers of loans of the 2 books are the same.

- End -