

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB224**

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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 Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

1. What kinds of extension activities are offered to support life-long learning and continuous education? What are the proportions of expenditures for the activities organised by the Department and those organised by external organisations with government funds?
2. Among the printed books newly acquired in 2022-23, what are the expenditures for books in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters and their respective proportions in terms of quantities? What are the figures compared with those in 2021-22?
3. What is the proportion of newly acquired e-book collections to all the library materials newly acquired in 2022-23? What is the proportion as compared with that in 2021-22? Is there any future plan to better promote the culture of reading e-books? What is the expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) collaborates with academic institutions, professional organisations, schools, non-governmental organisations, community organisations, etc. from time to time to offer diversified reading promotion activities, such as subject talks on various subjects and Creative Writing Workshops for Youths, to all ages with a view to cultivating a reading habit among the public and encouraging life-long learning. In addition, the HKPL collaborates with the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) to provide course materials of the HKMU distance learning undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in selected public libraries for public reference, and the collection will be updated on a regular basis to support continuous education. The above activities are organised by the LCSD and included in the programme plan of library extension activities for 2023-24, with an overall estimated expenditure of about \$21 million.

2. The respective proportions of books in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters in terms of quantities and expenditures in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as follows:

Financial Year	Traditional Chinese				Simplified Chinese			
	Items <sup>(1)</sup> (‘000)	Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)	Items <sup>(1)</sup> (‘000)	Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Proportion <sup>(2)</sup> (%)
2021-22	473	94.4	25.47	92.6	28	5.6	2.05	7.4
2022-23 (Estimate)	452	90.4	23.78	89.0	48	9.6	2.95	11.0

**Notes**

- (1) Estimate figures based on the number of books acquired through the relevant contract suppliers in the respective financial year.
- (2) Proportion to the total number of or total expenditure for Chinese books acquired in the respective financial year.

3. The respective proportions of e-book collections acquired to all the newly acquired books in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of newly acquired e-books (items)	Proportion to all the newly acquired books (%)
2021-22	41 665	5.5
2022-23 (Estimate)	60 000	8.3

The HKPL will continue to disseminate the latest information on its e-resources and promote its e-books and e-databases on various topics to the public through social media and the HKPL website in the future. Furthermore, the HKPL will enhance its outreach programmes through visits of Library-on-Wheels to communities, participation of the Hong Kong Book Fair and visits to schools and community groups to promote the e-book collections and e-reading to various sectors of the community. The manpower and expenditures involved in the above promotion activities will be absorbed within the recurrent expenditure of the LCSD.

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