

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HAB17

(Question Serial No. SV019)

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:

A follow-up question to Reply Serial No. HAB199:

- (i) Please list out by year the number of books withdrawn by public libraries under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in recent years, the number of brand-new books that have never been borrowed and the categories of these books.
- (ii) How will the Government step up scrutinising the book acquisition process?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (i) All library books acquired are put to circulation in the public libraries under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) writes off unserviceable library books that are worn out/damaged or contain outdated information in accordance with established guidelines and procedures. Details on the borrowing records of the write-off items are not readily available. The numbers of library books withdrawn in the past 3 years are set out in table below.

Year	Numbers of library books withdrawn (’000 items)
2015-16	363
2016-17	534
2017-18 (as at 28 February 2018)	138

- (ii) The HKPL follows the principles laid down in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Public Library Manifesto in developing a diversified library collection to meet the community’s needs for information and research, to support continuous education and profitable use of

leisure, and to promote literary arts. Every year, the HKPL formulates a collection development plan and consults the Public Libraries Advisory Committee. In the process, the HKPL takes into account the overall status of its collection, emerging trends and the usage patterns of library materials. In selecting suitable library materials for acquisition, due regard will be given to the annual collection development plan, the demands and interests of users (including book suggestions by users of the HKPL), the quality of library materials, latest publication information, book reviews and bibliographies, etc.

The HKPL is exploring the redevelopment of its information systems, which would facilitate the use of data analytics with a view to informing and supporting the acquisition and development of library collection.

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