

Analysis of the Loans of Books of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2022 to 2024)

	2022		2023		2024		2024 vs 2023
	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	(%)
Chinese Books							
Chinese Books for Adults	7 645 005	32.4%	10 088 276	35.1%	10 054 863	34.7%	-0.3%
Chinese Books for Children	10 306 314	43.8%	11 894 816	41.3%	12 009 647	41.4%	1.0%
Sub-total	17 951 319	76.2%	21 983 092	76.4%	22 064 510	76.1%	0.4%
English Books							
English Books for Adults	1 094 749	4.7%	1 413 291	4.9%	1 475 157	5.1%	4.4%
English Books for Children	4 496 875	19.1%	5 363 309	18.7%	5 433 709	18.8%	1.3%
Sub-total	5 591 624	23.8%	6 776 600	23.6%	6 908 866	23.9%	2.0%
Adult Books	8 739 754	37.1%	11 501 567	40%	11 530 020	39.8%	0.2%
Children Books	14 803 189	62.9%	17 258 125	60%	17 443 356	60.2%	1.1%
Total Number of Books	23 542 943	100%	28 759 692	100%	28 973 376	100%	0.7%

Number of Loans of Books (Sorted by Subject and Number of Loans)

(a) Chinese Books for Adults

		2022		2023		2024	
	Subject	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)
1	Fiction	1550203	20.3%	1864614	18.5%	1772158	17.6%
2	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	569332	7.5%	1138953	11.3%	1172475	11.7%
3	Applied Science	760943	10.0%	917804	9.1%	924983	9.2%
4	Language & Literature	755887	9.9%	928271	9.2%	900457	9.0%
5	Philosophy	565920	7.4%	744366	7.4%	806720	8.0%
6	Business, Economics & Finance	496572	6.5%	616633	6.1%	614932	6.1%
7	Translated Fiction	492252	6.4%	604147	6.0%	590844	5.9%
8	Home Economics	522551	6.8%	602915	6.0%	572277	5.7%
9	Arts	353486	4.6%	434236	4.3%	429682	4.3%
10	Chinese History; Geography & Travels	151254	2.0%	433060	4.3%	431799	4.3%
11	Education	277809	3.6%	347236	3.4%	350918	3.5%
12	Social Sciences	262575	3.4%	339288	3.4%	343968	3.4%
13	Religion	207290	2.7%	279381	2.8%	289936	2.9%
14	Sports & Recreation	214978	2.8%	271526	2.7%	273094	2.7%
15	Computer/IT	213337	2.8%	247079	2.4%	252844	2.5%
16	Science	175932	2.3%	217401	2.1%	225036	2.2%
17	General Works	45736	0.6%	61468	0.6%	62422	0.6%
18	Music	28948	0.4%	39898	0.4%	40318	0.4%
	Total	7645005	100%	10088276	100%	10054863	100%

(b) English Books for Adults

		2022		2023		2024	
	Subject	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)
	Fiction	202004	18.5%	251106	17.8%	262844	17.8%
	Business, Economics & Finance	133881	12.2%	160128	11.3%	158683	10.8%
	Social Sciences	68370	6.2%	101717	7.2%	125014	8.5%
	Geography & Travels	50195	4.6%	101442	7.2%	98736	6.7%
	Philosophy	66872	6.1%	86677	6.1%	95168	6.5%
	Science	68013	6.2%	89762	6.4%	91757	6.2%
	History	47244	4.3%	64327	4.5%	85399	5.8%
	Arts	69452	6.3%	83956	5.9%	83988	5.7%
	Computer/IT	66428	6.1%	88009	6.2%	83299	5.6%
	Applied Science	65547	6.0%	79002	5.6%	82432	5.6%
	Education	60284	5.5%	70320	5%	74274	5%
	Language	65279	6.0%	78863	5.6%	72692	4.9%
	Home Economics	42840	3.9%	47831	3.4%	47054	3.2%
	Literature	33003	3.0%	39385	2.8%	41486	2.8%
	Sports & Recreation	21536	2.0%	27976	2%	27167	1.8%
	Religion	15955	1.5%	19545	1.4%	20697	1.4%
	Music	12089	1.1%	16430	1.1%	16860	1.1%
	General Works	5757	0.5%	6815	0.5%	7607	0.5%
	Total	1094749	100%	1413291	100%	1475157	100%

(c) Chinese Books for Children

	2022			2023		2024	
	Subject	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)
1	Picture Books	3488598	33.8%	3857435	32.4%	3886373	32.4%
2	Language & Literature	2033018	19.7%	2531155	21.3%	2587506	21.5%
3	Fiction	1183579	11.5%	1373481	11.5%	1355309	11.3%
4	Science	1070581	10.4%	1164768	9.8%	1180433	9.8%
5	Translated Fiction	803175	7.8%	916790	7.7%	911938	7.6%
6	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	294405	2.8%	291489	2.4%	271306	2.3%
7	Applied Science	216151	2.1%	256616	2.2%	257192	2.1%
8	Philosophy	210529	2.0%	233093	2.0%	242869	2%
9	Chinese History, Geography & Travels	149481	1.5%	217545	1.8%	240890	2%
10	Sports & Recreation	191012	1.8%	241281	2.0%	224230	1.9%
11	Social Sciences	164472	1.6%	185455	1.6%	198831	1.7%
12	Education	121448	1.2%	165491	1.4%	179086	1.5%
13	Arts	111577	1.1%	143906	1.2%	154338	1.3%
14	General Works	102357	1.0%	111745	0.9%	95703	0.8%
15	Religion	69971	0.7%	80286	0.7%	85023	0.7%
16	Business, Economics & Finance	45046	0.4%	60472	0.5%	72681	0.6%
17	Computer/IT	26582	0.3%	30611	0.3%	30645	0.3%
18	Home Economics	17957	0.2%	25065	0.2%	29417	0.2%
19	Music	6375	0.1%	8132	0.1%	5877	0.1%
	Total	10306314	100%	11894816	100%	12009647	100%

(d) English Books for Children

	2022		2023		2024	
Subject	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)
Picture Books	1564917	34.8%	1772284	33.1%	1720614	31.7%
Fiction	974611	21.7%	1192410	22.2%	1163472	21.4%
Language	770970	17.1%	924847	17.2%	961831	17.7%
Science	399065	8.9%	483910	9.0%	502762	9.3%
Arts	216680	4.8%	299714	5.6%	358477	6.6%
Applied Science	138133	3.1%	177386	3.3%	202860	3.7%
Social Sciences	102919	2.3%	107067	2.0%	104581	1.9%
History	59910	1.3%	76492	1.4%	78303	1.4%
Sports & Recreation	38461	0.8%	55211	1.0%	63056	1.2%
Philosophy	33910	0.7%	45788	0.9%	51430	0.9%
Literature	40491	0.9%	43922	0.8%	42308	0.8%
Business, Economics & Finance	30356	0.7%	35474	0.7%	38309	0.7%
Home Economics	29447	0.7%	36877	0.7%	35626	0.7%
Geography & Travels	20469	0.5%	29028	0.5%	28540	0.5%
Computer/IT	17041	0.4%	17932	0.3%	17997	0.3%
General Works	13474	0.3%	16580	0.3%	17886	0.3%
Music	13647	0.3%	16184	0.3%	16571	0.3%
Religion	19119	0.4%	18222	0.4%	15276	0.3%
Education	13255	0.3%	13981	0.3%	13810	0.3%
Total	4496875	100%	5363309	100%	5433709	100%

Note: Due to rounding, there may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items in the tables and the respective total or sub-total.