

Analysis of the Loans of Books of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2023 to 2025)

	2023		2024		2025		2025 vs 2024
	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	No. of Loans	(%)	(%)
Chinese Books							
Chinese Books for Adults	10 088 276	35.1%	10 054 863	34.7%	9 702 098	33.0%	-3.5%
Chinese Books for Children	11 894 816	41.3%	12 009 647	41.4%	12 554 439	42.8%	4.5%
Sub-total	21 983 092	76.4%	22 064 510	76.1%	22 256 537	75.8%	0.9%
English Books							
English Books for Adults	1 413 291	4.9%	1 475 157	5.1%	1 412 993	4.8%	-4.2%
English Books for Children	5 363 309	18.7%	5 433 709	18.8%	5 680 461	19.4%	4.5%
Sub-total	6 776 600	23.6%	6 908 866	23.9%	7 093 454	24.2%	2.7%
Adult Books	11 501 567	40%	11 530 020	39.8%	11 115 091	37.9%	-3.6%
Children Books	17 258 125	60%	17 443 356	60.2%	18 234 900	62.1%	4.5%
Total Number of Books	28 759 692	100%	28 973 376	100%	29 349 991	100%	1.3%

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

(a) Chinese Books for Adults

	2023		2024		2025	
	Subject	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)
1	Fiction	1 864 614 18.5%	1 772 158 17.6%	1 639 012 16.9%		
2	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	1 138 953 11.3%	1 172 475 11.7%	969 500 10.0%		
3	Applied Science	917 804 9.1%	924 983 9.2%	926 464 9.5%		
4	Language & Literature	928 271 9.2%	900 457 9.0%	862 637 8.9%		
5	Philosophy	744 366 7.4%	806 720 8.0%	844 310 8.7%		
6	Business, Economics & Finance	616 633 6.1%	614 932 6.1%	649 603 6.7%		
7	Translated Fiction	604 147 6.0%	590 844 5.9%	599 137 6.2%		
8	Home Economics	602 915 6.0%	572 277 5.7%	562 626 5.8%		
9	Chinese History; Geography & Travels	433 060 4.3%	431 799 4.3%	425 288 4.4%		
10	Arts	434 236 4.3%	429 682 4.3%	414 038 4.3%		
11	Education	347 236 3.4%	350 918 3.5%	353 163 3.6%		
12	Social Sciences	339 288 3.4%	343 968 3.4%	334 839 3.5%		
13	Religion	279 381 2.8%	289 936 2.9%	276 240 2.8%		
14	Sports & Recreation	271 526 2.7%	273 094 2.7%	269 555 2.8%		
15	Computer/IT	247 079 2.4%	252 844 2.5%	241 630 2.5%		
16	Science	217 401 2.1%	225 036 2.2%	233 179 2.4%		
17	General Works	61 468 0.6%	62 422 0.6%	61 423 0.6%		
18	Music	39 898 0.4%	40 318 0.4%	39 454 0.4%		
	Total	10 088 276 100%	10 054 863 100%	9 702 098 100%		

(b) English Books for Adults

	2023		2024		2025	
	Subject	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)
	Fiction	251 106 17.8%	262 844 17.8%	264 279 18.7%		
	Business, Economics & Finance	160 128 11.3%	158 683 10.8%	162 962 11.5%		
	Philosophy	86 677 6.1%	95 168 6.5%	96 417 6.8%		
	Geography & Travels	101 442 7.2%	98 736 6.7%	95 270 6.7%		
	Science	89 762 6.4%	91 757 6.2%	94 769 6.7%		
	Arts	83 956 5.9%	83 988 5.7%	87 665 6.2%		
	Education	70 320 5%	74 274 5%	82 965 5.9%		
	Social Sciences	101 717 7.2%	125 014 8.5%	82 820 5.9%		
	Applied Science	79 002 5.6%	82 432 5.6%	82 202 5.8%		
	Computer/IT	88 009 6.2%	83 299 5.6%	74 248 5.3%		
	Language	78 863 5.6%	72 692 4.9%	65 613 4.6%		
	History	64 327 4.5%	85 399 5.8%	57 079 4.0%		
	Home Economics	47 831 3.4%	47 054 3.2%	51 743 3.7%		
	Literature	39 385 2.8%	41 486 2.8%	40 755 2.9%		
	Sports & Recreation	27 976 2%	27 167 1.8%	32 006 2.3%		
	Religion	19 545 1.4%	20 697 1.4%	19 950 1.4%		
	Music	16 430 1.1%	16 860 1.1%	15 785 1.1%		
	General Works	6 815 0.5%	7 607 0.5%	6 465 0.5%		
	Total	1 413 291 100%	1 475 157 100%	1 412 993 100%		

(c) Chinese Books for Children

	2023		2024		2025	
	Subject	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	
1	Picture Books	3 857 435 32.4%	3 886 373 32.4%	4 103 398 32.7%		
2	Language & Literature	2 531 155 21.3%	2 587 506 21.5%	2 584 001 20.6%		
3	Fiction	1 373 481 11.5%	1 355 309 11.3%	1 352 228 10.8%		
4	Science	1 164 768 9.8%	1 180 433 9.8%	1 268 806 10.1%		
5	Translated Fiction	916 790 7.7%	911 938 7.6%	893 703 7.1%		
6	Philosophy	233 093 2.0%	242 869 2%	294 380 2.3%		
7	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	291 489 2.4%	271 306 2.3%	287 440 2.3%		
8	Applied Science	256 616 2.2%	257 192 2.1%	281 689 2.2%		
9	Chinese History, Geography & Travels	217 545 1.8%	240 890 2%	271 195 2.2%		
10	Social Sciences	185 455 1.6%	198 831 1.7%	253 995 2.0%		
11	Sports & Recreation	241 281 2.0%	224 230 1.9%	224 356 1.8%		
12	Education	165 491 1.4%	179 086 1.5%	204 955 1.6%		
13	Arts	143 906 1.2%	154 338 1.3%	180 449 1.4%		
14	Religion	80 286 0.7%	85 023 0.7%	94 362 0.8%		
15	Business, Economics & Finance	60 472 0.5%	72 681 0.6%	89 193 0.7%		
16	General Works	111 745 0.9%	95 703 0.8%	85 917 0.7%		
17	Computer/IT	30 611 0.3%	30 645 0.3%	37 813 0.3%		
18	Home Economics	25 065 0.2%	29 417 0.2%	39 367 0.3%		
19	Music	8 132 0.1%	5 877 0.1%	7 192 0.1%		
	Total	11 894 816 100%	12 009 647 100%	12 554 439 100%		

(d) English Books for Children

	2023		2024		2025	
	Subject	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	No. of Loans (%)	
	Picture Books	1 772 284 33.1%	1 720 614 31.7%	1 782 249 31.4%		
	Fiction	1 192 410 22.2%	1 163 472 21.4%	1 129 957 19.9%		
	Language	924 847 17.2%	961 831 17.7%	1 021 075 18.0%		
	Science	483 910 9.0%	502 762 9.3%	537 961 9.5%		
	Arts	299 714 5.6%	358 477 6.6%	407 374 7.2%		
	Applied Science	177 386 3.3%	202 860 3.7%	224 609 4.0%		
	Social Sciences	107 067 2.0%	104 581 1.9%	111 663 2.0%		
	History	76 492 1.4%	78 303 1.4%	85 220 1.5%		
	Sports & Recreation	55 211 1.0%	63 056 1.2%	77 959 1.4%		
	Philosophy	45 788 0.9%	51 430 0.9%	60 255 1.1%		
	Business, Economics & Finance	35 474 0.7%	38 309 0.7%	43 504 0.8%		
	Literature	43 922 0.8%	42 308 0.8%	42 662 0.8%		
	Home Economics	36 877 0.7%	35 626 0.7%	40 306 0.7%		
	Geography & Travels	29 028 0.5%	28 540 0.5%	29 812 0.5%		
	Computer/IT	17 932 0.3%	17 997 0.3%	19 434 0.3%		
	General Works	16 580 0.3%	17 886 0.3%	18 479 0.3%		
	Music	16 184 0.3%	16 571 0.3%	17 751 0.3%		
	Education	13 981 0.3%	13 810 0.3%	15 422 0.3%		
	Religion	18 222 0.4%	15 276 0.3%	14 769 0.3%		
	Total	5 363 309 100%	5 433 709 100%	5 680 461 100%		

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.