

Analysis on Loans of Books of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2018 to 2020)

	2018		2019		2020		2020 vs 2019
	No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)	(%)
Chinese books							
Chinese books for adults	19,342,960	41.8%	17,609,171	40.5%	8,719,687	37.80%	-50.5%
Chinese books for children	16,486,306	35.7%	16,189,077	37.2%	9,147,889	39.60%	-43.5%
Sub-total	35,829,266	77.5%	33,798,248	77.7%	17,867,576	77.40%	-47.1%
English books							
English books for adults	2,517,464	5.4%	2,250,562	5.2%	1,271,527	5.50%	-43.5%
English books for children	7,902,226	17.1%	7,421,582	17.1%	3,935,223	17.10%	-47.0%
Sub-total	10,419,690	22.5%	9,672,144	22.3%	5,206,750	22.60%	-46.2%
Adult books	21,860,424	47.3%	19,859,733	45.7%	9,991,214	43.30%	-49.7%
Children books	24,388,532	52.7%	23,610,659	54.3%	13,083,112	56.70%	-44.6%
Total number of books	46,248,956	100.0%	43,470,392	100.0%	23,074,326	100%	-46.9%

Number of Loans of Books (By Subject and Number of Loans)

(a) Chinese Books for Adults

	2018		2019		2020	
	Subject	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	
1	Fiction	4,027,233 20.8%	3,357,223 19.1%	1,630,560 18.7%		
2	Language & Literature	1,873,072 9.7%	1,650,510 9.4%	872,825 10.0%		
3	Applied Science	1,831,327 9.5%	1,647,297 9.4%	870,146 10.0%		
4	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	2,607,465 13.5%	2,581,004 14.6%	821,399 9.4%		
5	Home Economics	1,467,025 7.6%	1,217,200 6.9%	657,224 7.5%		
6	Business, Economics & Finance	1,042,526 5.4%	1,039,770 5.9%	595,319 6.8%		
7	Philosophy	985,126 5.1%	1,015,214 5.8%	570,918 6.5%		
8	Translated Fiction	1,022,097 5.3%	987,116 5.6%	554,899 6.4%		
9	Arts	762,108 3.9%	706,064 4.0%	365,549 4.2%		
10	Education	630,198 3.3%	595,294 3.4%	321,228 3.7%		
11	Social Sciences	563,798 2.9%	523,212 3.0%	305,464 3.5%		
12	Computer/IT	472,885 2.4%	419,660 2.4%	234,136 2.7%		
13	Sports & Recreation	450,135 2.3%	415,134 2.4%	232,880 2.7%		
14	Chinese History, Geography & Travels	735,354 3.8%	603,388 3.4%	218,383 2.5%		
15	Religion	443,983 2.3%	410,873 2.3%	218,130 2.5%		
16	Science	262,462 1.4%	289,625 1.6%	170,073 2.0%		
17	General Works	101,752 0.5%	94,026 0.5%	48,512 0.6%		
18	Music	64,414 0.3%	56,561 0.3%	32,042 0.3%		
	Total	19,342,960 100%	17,609,171 100%	8,719,687 100%		

(b) English Books for Adults

	2018		2019		2020	
	Subject	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	No. of loans (%)	
	Fiction	364,637 14.5%	329,834 14.7%	206,087 16.2%		
	Business, Economics & Finance	340,742 13.5%	294,612 13.1%	169,281 13.3%		
	Social Sciences	148,112 5.9%	140,464 6.2%	88,971 7.0%		
	Computer/IT	158,362 6.3%	140,553 6.2%	84,107 6.6%		
	Language	174,446 6.9%	149,958 6.7%	82,813 6.5%		
	Arts	159,662 6.3%	135,381 6.0%	78,794 6.2%		
	Science	146,620 5.8%	130,675 5.8%	77,955 6.1%		
	Education	164,128 6.5%	143,358 6.4%	77,303 6.1%		
	Applied Science	140,581 5.6%	128,959 5.7%	73,803 5.8%		
	Philosophy	118,790 4.7%	119,630 5.3%	70,682 5.6%		
	Geography & Travels	228,423 9.1%	192,037 8.5%	57,795 4.5%		
	History	89,834 3.6%	86,953 3.9%	56,711 4.5%		
	Home Economics	79,509 3.2%	78,322 3.5%	45,489 3.6%		
	Literature	77,112 3.1%	66,410 2.9%	37,477 2.9%		
	Sports & Recreation	43,402 1.7%	40,314 1.8%	22,530 1.8%		
	Religion	39,970 1.6%	33,670 1.5%	18,759 1.5%		
	Music	31,686 1.2%	28,708 1.3%	16,038 1.3%		
	General Works	11,448 0.5%	10,724 0.5%	6,932 0.5%		
	Total	2,517,464 100%	2,250,562 100%	1,271,527 100%		

(c) Chinese Books for Children

	Subject	2018		2019		2020	
		No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)
1	Picture Books	5,349,739	32.4%	5,672,612	35.0%	3,350,909	36.6%
2	Language & Literature	3,407,334	20.7%	3,025,949	18.7%	1,543,065	16.9%
3	Fiction	1,612,895	9.8%	1,668,807	10.3%	993,811	10.9%
4	Science	1,666,910	10.1%	1,686,870	10.4%	945,709	10.3%
5	Translated Fiction	1,557,443	9.4%	1,440,282	8.9%	757,724	8.3%
6	Travels, History & Geography; Biography	523,771	3.2%	497,737	3.1%	292,542	3.2%
7	Philosophy	396,566	2.4%	349,023	2.2%	192,296	2.1%
8	Applied Science	408,992	2.5%	316,876	2.0%	191,120	2.1%
9	Social Sciences	231,561	1.4%	248,609	1.5%	157,287	1.7%
10	Sports & Recreation	313,612	1.9%	273,589	1.7%	155,873	1.7%
11	Chinese History, Geography & Travels	204,639	1.2%	210,061	1.3%	130,106	1.4%
12	General Works	169,954	1.0%	213,193	1.3%	113,616	1.2%
13	Arts	199,617	1.2%	181,327	1.1%	93,339	1.0%
14	Education	161,323	1.0%	148,711	0.9%	80,715	0.9%
15	Religion	142,205	0.9%	124,844	0.8%	72,140	0.8%
16	Business, Economics & Finance	68,080	0.4%	71,687	0.4%	42,885	0.5%
17	Home Economics	41,470	0.3%	31,034	0.2%	16,420	0.2%
18	Computer/IT	20,030	0.1%	18,904	0.1%	12,916	0.1%
19	Music	10,165	0.1%	8,962	0.1%	5,416	0.1%
	Total	16,486,306	100%	16,189,077	100%	9,147,889	100%

(d) English Books for Children

	Subject	2018		2019		2020	
		No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)	No. of loans	(%)
	Picture Books	2,594,236	32.8%	2,383,105	32.1%	1,306,065	33.2%
	Fiction	1,590,976	20.1%	1,523,853	20.5%	844,802	21.5%
	Language	2,081,171	26.3%	1,860,504	25.1%	811,599	20.6%
	Science	580,427	7.3%	583,739	7.9%	329,689	8.4%
	Arts	215,628	2.7%	259,559	3.5%	153,305	3.9%
	Applied Science	169,464	2.1%	168,323	2.3%	104,671	2.7%
	Social Sciences	161,756	2.1%	149,547	2.0%	92,950	2.4%
	History	108,749	1.4%	95,331	1.3%	57,030	1.4%
	Literature	67,065	0.9%	61,999	0.8%	38,460	1.0%
	Sports & Recreation	56,005	0.7%	57,824	0.8%	31,751	0.8%
	Home Economics	39,038	0.5%	37,983	0.5%	27,995	0.7%
	Business, Economics & Finance	45,339	0.6%	42,969	0.6%	26,179	0.7%
	Philosophy	39,311	0.5%	37,095	0.5%	20,948	0.5%
	Geography & Travels	36,931	0.5%	37,884	0.5%	18,804	0.5%
	Religion	25,902	0.3%	29,866	0.4%	16,784	0.4%
	Education	33,022	0.4%	27,113	0.4%	14,516	0.4%
	Music	22,057	0.3%	22,521	0.3%	13,426	0.3%
	Computer/IT	15,271	0.2%	17,275	0.2%	13,350	0.3%
	General Works	19,878	0.3%	25,092	0.3%	12,899	0.3%
	Total	7,902,226	100.0%	7,421,582	100.0%	3,935,223	100.0%

Note: There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the respective total or sub-total as shown in the tables owing to rounding