

## **Public Libraries Advisory Committee**

### **Summary of Discussion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held on 9 October 2013**

#### **Review of Mobile Library Services in Hong Kong Public Libraries 2013**

1. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) reported the findings and recommendations of a recently conducted review on mobile library (ML) services with a view to enhancing the overall mobile library services with the injection of two new mobile library vans (MLVs) in near future. To meet increasing demand for enhancement of ML service in the local communities, a total of 14 new ML stops could be set up whilst the visit frequencies of 8 existing stops with high usage or potential high usage could be increased with the rollout of two new MLVs. The stops with the lowest average issue rate would be retained due to their geographic uniqueness, infrastructure of the districts and service needs. In view of the findings, Members suggested the following:-

- (i) The enhanced ML service should be publicised to draw public attention.
- (ii) Consideration could be given to allow readers to search the library catalogue, return books and collect reserved books transferred from other public libraries in MLs. Moreover, online library catalogue for active stock available on a mobile library van (MLV) during its service hours could be provided.
- (iii) Given the current difficulties in finding suitable sites for opening new static libraries, thoughts could be given to provide more MLVs for more flexible service.

- (iv) ML services should be promoted to the minority groups and children as well. Moreover, MLVs could be decorated more colourfully and lively so as to attract children to visit and to nurture their reading habit.

2. HKPL took note and would study the feasibility of Members' suggestions.

### **Development of e-Book Services in Hong Kong Public Libraries**

3. HKPL reported for Members' reference the latest development of e-book services in public libraries, including the current e-book provision, usage rate, publicity and promotion, the provision of e-book service in other countries/regions, models of e-book procurement, lending of e-book reading devices as well as future development. HKPL would actively identify and liaise with suitable e-book aggregators / providers for procurement of different types of e-books in enriching the collection and meeting readers' growing need on e-reading.
4. Members suggested HKPL to enhance library platform and interface for more convenient access to the e-resources of HKPL. HKPL responded that there had been IT projects in enhancing the e-resources services and developing a mobile apps to be available for public use in mid-2014. HKPL would continue to develop e-books collection in view of the global trend for a growing use of electronic media, and to promote the usage of both print and e-book collection.

### **Thematic Collection on Food and Nutrition**

5. Members were briefed that the Thematic Collection on Food and Nutrition would launch in December 2013 in Tuen Mun Public Library. As at September 2013, the

collection consisted of over 4,500 printed and non-printed items covering the subject area of food and health, life cycle nutrition, nutrition and vitamin supplement, etc. A thematic website on Food and Nutrition was under construction as well. With respect to cooperation with local communities, there would be regular displays and subject talks at different districts arranged to promote the thematic collection to the local community.

6. Members suggested that the thematic collection could also cover cuisines and food cultures of different countries as well as how to preserve nutritional value. HKPL took note of Members' suggestion.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee

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