

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Summary of Discussion of the 18th Meeting Held on 12 February 2014

Enhancing Public Library Services

1. The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) gave a brief account on the present position of strategic development of public library services and upcoming future developments. A demonstration of the coming new HKPL Portal was also given at the meeting for Members' reference. Members expressed appreciation on HKPL's efforts made on carrying out the various strategic plans and had the following views:-
 - (i) Like some overseas libraries, consideration could be given on building up multi-lingual collections other than Chinese and English for users of other languages. While at present the majority of collections were in Chinese and English, HKPL undertook to closely monitor the need of the community.
 - (ii) With respect to the new HKPL Portal, usage rates before and after the introduction of the new Portal should be collated to facilitate continuous improvement and strategic study of future needs.
 - (iii) In view of the substantial initial capital and recurrent cost for the development of Radio Frequency Identification system, implementation by phases would be a better option.
 - (iv) With respect to provision of new libraries in partnership, HKPL informed that there was already a Community Libraries Partnership Scheme operated under similar arrangement, of which the set-up as well as daily operation cost of the community libraries was borne by local organisations and HKPL provided block loan of books as well as professional guidance on operation and management.

Development of Hong Kong Central Library in the Preservation and Promotion of Local Culture

2. Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) reported for Members' reference its development in preservation and promotion of local culture. Members advised that dedicated teams comprising experts in the respective fields could be set up to update the "Who's Who in Hong Kong Literature"(香港文學作家傳略) and to systematically collect, organise and make available valuable oral history information in the Hong Kong Oral History Collection. Moreover, consideration could be given to digitize more special collections to facilitate researches of local culture. HKPL would consider such possibility subject to availability of resources.

Brief Report on the Visit to Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province and the New Guangzhou Library in December 2013

3. HKPL briefly reported the Committee's visit to the two libraries concerned on 13 December 2013. Members thanked HKPL for the arrangement and remarked the visit was a successful and fruitful one.

Any Other Business

4. This would be the last meeting of the current tenure. LCSD expressed heartfelt gratitude to Members for providing valuable advice to the Government in the past two years on the overall strategic development of HKPL and in various public library services, allowing HKPL to continue enhancing its library services to the Community. The Chairman also extended his appreciation to the Vice-chairman and all Members for their full support throughout the tenure.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee
June 2014