

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 20th Meeting Held on 25 October 2014

Summary Report on “Hong Kong Memory” Focus Group Meeting

1. A “Hong Kong Memory” Focus Group (HKMFG) was established under the Committee with a view to advising the Department on the strategic development of the Hong Kong Memory Project. The comments and suggestions raised by the Focus Group members at HKMFG’s first meeting on 31 July 2014 were reported to the Committee vide Paper PLAC 8/2014. Members noted that the Department’s readily available exhibition materials were scheduled for uploading to the Hong Kong Memory Portal over the next five years, and at the same time a long-term strategy to develop the Portal was being worked on. An annual provision of \$6 million had been obtained to support the recurrent expenses including system maintenance and contents development. The Department would continue to explore further funding opportunities for the Project.

Latest Development of Public Library Services in Building the ‘Library Without Walls’ and Promoting Local Culture and History in the District

2. The Department briefed members on the latest development of library services, including the plans of building the “Library Without Walls”, promotion of local culture and history at district level, demonstration of the recently launched mobile applications: “My Library” and “Multimedia Information”, and the upgraded “Multimedia Information System”.
3. Having noted the presentation, Members commended the Department’s efforts in developing a useful e-platform for the public to access a wealth of information available in the public libraries and suggested stepping up the promotion to the general public. The Department responded that in addition to the existing multiple channels, a large-scale promotion activity would be launched in December 2014 to take a further step in promoting the use of e-resources, library portal and new mobile applications.
4. In response to members’ suggestion of providing 24-hour library services, the Department reported that the idea was studied and considered too costly some time ago, but it would be re-visited at an opportune time.
5. At members’ suggestion to enrich the e-book services, the Department remarked that the current focus was on developing and enhancing the accessibility of library e-resources but would review the situation for the best use of library budget in developing the library collections.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee
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