Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 21st Meeting Held on 13 February 2015

A Briefing on the Collection Development of the Hong Kong Public Libraries

1. Members were briefed on the collection development policy of the Hong Kong Public Libraries ("HKPL") vide the document entitled "香港公共圖書館館藏發展" tabled at the meeting and made the following comments:

   (a) The interactive interface of HKPL webpage and the inclusion of e-resources with high public interest, e.g. IELTS, were encouraging.

   (b) Noting the gradual change in the age profile of the population, particular attention could be paid to the reading interest of senior citizens in future reviews.

   (c) Materials published in the languages of the local ethnic minorities (e.g. Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, etc.) should be considered, in particular educational tools to facilitate their learning Chinese and English.

   (d) Consideration can be given on using multiple channels such as meetings with school librarians and internet social platforms to promote collections and e-resources.

Hong Kong Central Library – Introduction of the "Hong Kong Literary Authors Online Database"

2. The Hong Kong Central Library ("HKCL") has been building up a "Hong Kong Literary Authors Database" ("the Database") based on the "香港文學作家傳略" ("the Book") which was compiled by Prof LIU Yi-chang (劉以鬯) and published in 1996. It was planned that the Database, which was at present accessible through the terminal in the Hong Kong Literature Room of the HKCL, would be uploaded to the internet for free public access. The first batch of records of the Database was expected to be delivered in 2016 with a view to completion in 2018.

3. Members generally supported the project as it would not only facilitate research on local literary authors but also encourage literary writing in the local community. Main comments that they provided were as follows:

   (a) To put in place an effective searching tool enabling simple searches for authors by types of literary works and periods of works.

   (b) To include in the Database local English-writing authors.

   (c) To monitor the selection of authors into the Database and maintain transparency of the selection process.

Progress Report of the Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries 2009 – 2018

4.   Members noted the progress of the implementation of the ten-year Strategic Plan of HKPL (2009 – 2018) vide paper PLAC 2/2015 and made the following comments:

(a)   To invest in a good searching tool for the portal to facilitate the public to locate information efficiently and effectively.

(b)   To tighten up security involving the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology being used in public libraries as far as practicable.

(c)   To explore more collaboration opportunities with local organisations in organising extension activities targeting different social groups such as the elderly.

(d)   To include the languages of the local ethnic minorities in promoting various extension activities.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee
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