

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 27th Meeting Held on 10 February 2017

**Work Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries in 2017 (PLAC 1/2017) and
Promotion of Reading in the Community by the Hong Kong Public Libraries
(PLAC 2/2017)**

1. Members were briefed on the work plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2017 in respect of infrastructure, application of technology, promotion of reading, preservation of culture and history and other administrative matters. Members also noted the latest collaborating schemes between the HKPL and schools/non-government organisations (NGOs)/community bodies/the Education Bureau to promote reading in the community.
2. Members made the following suggestions:
 - (a) To raise the ethnic minority students' prospects of further studies by playing a more active role to step up the effort in facilitating them to acquire Chinese as a second language with the support of library resources.
 - (b) To foster social inclusion by organising more parent-child activities targeting both local and ethnic minority parents and children and engaging native-speaking ethnic minority teachers and students for library activities.
 - (c) To take into account the specific demographic profile of users in different districts when planning library services to meet the demand of different library user groups.
 - (d) To enrich the collection and to organise thematic talks/workshops, to display information on community services for senior citizens in the libraries and organise reading programmes by engaging senior citizens to share their knowledge with younger readers.
 - (e) To encourage the use of library services by users in different age groups by organising reading ambassador programmes and other reading activities specifically for users at different segments.
 - (f) To explore other areas of cooperation with /assistance to be provided to the community libraries in order to increase the sustainability of the operation of community libraries.
 - (g) To evaluate the effectiveness of the extension activities and schemes for promotion of reading with the attendance rate and usage figures.

- (h) To formulate marketing strategies in planning its territory-wide extension activities, for example to tie in with the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR.
- (i) To explore new angles to attract the younger generation by making use of popular channels to promote reading such as micro-videos, social media and mobile applications.
- (j) To arouse interests in reading at a young age by strengthening the promotion of reading to kindergartens.
- (k) To explore setting up library volunteer groups as a way to better engage the community in the delivery of library services and strengthen the support to the HKPL in carrying out the diversified activities.
- (l) To map out a long-term plan for the next five to ten years in respect of enhancing service efficiency by leveraging on new technology for developing the new generation library information systems.
- (m) To provide a more attractive and welcoming environment to patrons by modifying the design of layout and furnishings in public libraries at each tier.
- (n) To set up information centres at more public libraries to meet the increasing demand on the use of computer services and adopt the “learning commons” model on the layout design.
- (o) To create a more vibrant ambience in public libraries to attract patronage of the younger generations.
- (p) To explore collaboration opportunities with local organisations’ “community cultural docent tours” in promoting culture and heritage of individual districts as well as set up Cultural and Historical Resource Corner at more libraries.
- (q) To better promote lifelong learning and foster the reading habit in the community by helping local organisations to set up reading centres in every district for organising reading activities.
- (r) To form a more efficient platform for sharing of resources by playing a more active role in stepping up communication and co-operation between public libraries and schools.
- (s) To invite celebrities or renowned authors to broadcast the new self-service library unit trial scheme and place the self-service library units at more easily accessible locations.
- (t) To take advantage of the “LIBoratory Project” and explore opportunities in

collaborating with schools to complement each other in the provision of information and knowledge.

Collection Development Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2017-18) (PLAC 3/2017)

3. Members were briefed on the collection development plan of the HKPL in 2017-18 and the HKPL's plan to conduct business process re-engineering on collection management.

4. Members supported the collection development plan and made the following comments:

- (a) To strengthen the e-resources and to conduct an analysis to identify the reasons for the trend of usage of various e-book collections for planning the e-book collection development.
- (b) To plan the business process re-engineering on collection maintenance under a longer-term framework taking into consideration of the availability of software and a multi-purpose information system in the market to improve decision analytics, facilitate collection and analysis of data, streamline workflow, assist in decision making and promote library services.
- (c) To upkeep the relevancy and attractiveness of the library collections and take into account changes in the reading habit of the younger generation.
- (d) To explore the feasibility and suitability in adopting "approval plan" with book vendors by which new publications would be delivered to the libraries according to the plan.
- (e) To take into account hot topics in selecting library materials for providing the public with access to current information.
- (f) To strengthen the collection on positive thinking, mental distress, as well as behaviour education for children having regard to the trend of social needs.
- (g) To provide better incentive for the elderly and the visually-impaired to use the library services by procuring more audio books, in particular popular classics.
- (h) To explore other means to withdraw library books and step up reader education in using library materials with proper care to prolong the life span of public resources.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee
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