

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 29th Meeting Held on 7 November 2017

Progress of the “Feasibility Study on Redevelopment of Hong Kong Public Libraries Information Systems” (PLAC 6/2017)

1. Members noted the progress of the Feasibility Study on Redevelopment of Hong Kong Public Libraries Information Systems and made the following suggestions:

- (a) To preserve the history and culture of Hong Kong and strengthen the sense of identity among members of the public, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) might include the electronic reference materials and databases related to the history and culture of Hong Kong in the Hong Kong Memory website for public information or for use by tertiary institutions.
- (b) The study should be forward-looking and sustainable to ensure that the new systems would be able to meet service needs of public libraries in the next 10 to 15 years.
- (c) In drawing up the vision with respect to business and technology, colleagues of the LCSD could be consulted on their expectations and aspirations of the new systems. Moreover, views should be collected from library users and non-users for a more comprehensive analysis.
- (d) Public libraries should make resources available for stepping up user education and enhancing the intellectual quality of the general public to help them identify the sources and relevance of the information retrieved.
- (e) In addition to the application of technology, the LCSD should engage consultants to help review whether business process re-engineering would be needed to tie in with the application of new technology, with a view to maximising system effectiveness and ensuring seamless integration of system switchover and new business process.
- (f) Design of robots that are capable of sorting books and interacting with readers might be explored to attract children and young people to libraries.

- (g) Introduction of mobile app technology to the daily operation of libraries might be considered.
- (h) The LCSD should cater for the needs of the elderly when incorporating digital elements into library services.

Strategy for Public Libraries to Promote Reading among Children (PLAC 7/2017)

2. Noting the strategy and extension activities for public libraries to promote reading among children in 2018-19, Members made the following suggestions regarding reading promotional activities:

- (a) The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) might consider organising more novel and unconventional activities to arouse a greater interest in reading among young people.
- (b) Apart from addressing the needs of children, promotion of reading among parents should be considered, so as to help parents understand the importance of reading to their children, prompting them to set a good example for their children to cultivate a habit of reading from childhood.
- (c) Enhancement of the reading environment of libraries should be considered to increase the attractiveness of libraries to different age groups.
- (d) Different types of books should be acquired to cater for the needs of parents and students.
- (e) While stepping up the application of technology and development of electronic resources, the HKPL should encourage members of the public to physically visit the libraries to enjoy the services.
- (f) Collaboration with the education sector should be enhanced to encourage schools to allocate resources for joint promotion of reading and to instil in students a positive value of reading starting from their childhood. More support should also be provided to schools in this respect.
- (g) Regarding the theme of “4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition”, topics that injected a breath of freshness could be considered so as to increase public participation, giving members of the public a chance to ponder the significance and value of libraries.

Latest Progress of the Library Collection Development Work (PLAC 8/2017)

3. Members noted the latest progress of the library collection development work, and made the following suggestions:

- (a) While concurring that no rigid indicators should be laid down for the acquisition of library materials, Members considered it necessary to clear public misunderstanding about the indicators for acquisition.
- (b) Apart from reviewing the quantity of library materials acquired by public libraries, the LCSD should consider formulating a strategy for acquisition of high quality library materials and acquiring more books that are of interest to the general public, so as to optimise the use of public resources.
- (c) In acquiring library materials, the HKPL should strike a balance between the preferences of different readers and the strategic direction of library collection development, and acquire a variety of books to balance the needs of different sectors of the community.
- (d) Making reference to the acquisition of e-books, the HKPL might explore the feasibility of real-time acquisition of printed library materials, so as to ensure that the quantity acquired tied in with actual needs.
- (e) The HKPL should strengthen the school collaboration network and ancillary support, and play a more active role in promotion of reading, so as to impress upon the public the image of libraries.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee

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