

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Summary of Discussion of the 39th Meeting Held on 9 December 2020

Outcome Indicators for Implementing “The Strategic Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2020 to 2025)” (PLAC 6/2020)

1. Members noted the details of the outcome indicators for implementing “The Strategic Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2020 to 2025)” and made the following comments:

- (a) In the face of challenges ahead and that online services had become a new norm in the light of the development of the epidemic, more efforts should be paid to promote online access to library resources and participation in activities, in parallel with physical libraries, so as to enable members of the public to enjoy the resources, services and activities of public libraries even when staying at home.
- (b) Members appreciated the comprehensive development plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), and suggested that a back-up plan should be drawn up to ensure the continuation of services when physical operations were affected by the epidemic.
- (c) In view of the attention span of children, the duration of storytelling videos targeting young children should not be too long. Moreover, it was suggested to organise activities such as “Touring the Library with the Authors”, “Shadow Librarians” and introducing robots in libraries to arouse children’s interest in understanding and using library services.
- (d) It was suggested that library service usage patterns of readers of different age groups should be analysed, so as to understand their needs for continuous education as well as the changes and trends.
- (e) Members recognised the importance for public libraries to establish connections with community organisations and professional bodies in enhancing the sustainability of the diversified action plans and programmes. Collaboration with different social media should be considered to enhance promotion of reading in the virtual world, so as to broaden the readership by reaching out extensively to young people.

- (f) Publicity should be enhanced to inform members of the public that they could continue to use various library services via the HKPL website during the closure of libraries.

Programme Strategy of the Hong Kong Public Libraries for 2021-22 (PLAC 7/2020)

2. Members noted the programme strategy of the HKPL for the coming year and made the following suggestions:

- (a) to draw up a contingency plan in advance as reading exchange activities and school programmes echoing the “4 • 23 World Book Day” to be held early next year would likely be affected by the epidemic;
- (b) to indicate the “suitable age range” of participants in different types of activities to facilitate parents’ selection of appropriate activities for their children;
- (c) to produce quick guide on the latest resources of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and HKPL to facilitate teachers’ recommendations of the services to students; and adopt diversified approaches in introducing books to readers of different age groups, such as short videos for presenting information to secondary students;
- (d) to consider organising more online activities which were not subject to venue restrictions, with reference to universities’ experience of switching to online teaching and activities in the light of the epidemic, so as to attract more participants;
- (e) to make use of the regular communication channels between the Education Bureau and schools in further promoting library activities and resources;
- (f) Members appreciated the rich information on the LCSD Edutainment Channel, which enabled schools to select appropriate content for parents to use at home during suspension of face-to-face classes. In view that students had fewer chances to read physical books due to the

closure of libraries, it was suggested to make use of electronic circular of schools for parents to access the latest information on online resources more easily and conveniently;

- (g) to encourage more characteristic district-based activities to be presented online and promoted territory-wide by eliminating the geographical constraints of physical events, and to consider inviting celebrities to draw wider attention in promoting major events.

Progress on the Work of the Hong Kong Central Library in the Preservation and Promotion of Culture (PLAC 8/2020)

3. Members noted the progress of the work of the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) in the preservation and promotion of culture and made the following comments:

- (a) Members appreciated the HKCL's efforts in the collection, consolidation and preservation of documents and suggested reviewing the criteria and priority for donation of documents. Consideration could be given to providing more options in the search function to facilitate the search of relevant documents and library collections by categories.
- (b) Promotion of the rich documentary resources of the HKPL to young adult could be enhanced by presenting the special documentary collections by different themes customized for specific groups. Interactive activities such as designing book jackets could be organised to attract public participation.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee
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