

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 40th Meeting Held on 3 March 2021

Business Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries (2021-22) (PLAC 1/2021)

1. Members noted the Business Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), and raised the following questions and comments:

- (a) There was still a considerable gap between the usage of library materials for lending and that of e-resources. It was suggested that e-book collections should be enriched and promotion of online reading continued; online services such as real-time enquiry and book reservation services should be strengthened to facilitate the borrowing of library materials by members of the public; and online reading data should be included in attendance at extension activities programmes.
- (b) Explanatory notes should be added to library usage data, providing information on suspension of public library services due to the pandemic in 2020, so as to fully reflect its impact on library operation, including the borrowing of physical books and the number of physical visits.
- (c) Regarding the adoption of design thinking in directing the design for the Smart Library System, enquiry was raised on the scope which would be on the workflow of borrowing and returning library materials or the overall experience of users in using the library services.
- (d) Enquiry was raised on the measures taken by libraries to make parents feel at ease when bringing their children to libraries amid the pandemic, including the introduction of the latest disinfection techniques, automatic cleansing robots, etc.
- (e) Enquiry was raised on the details of publicity and celebration activities marking the 60th anniversary of the HKPL. It was suggested that activities should be held to promote to the public the history and services of libraries in addition to promoting

reading.

- (f) Enquiry was raised on the one-stop search function of the Smart Library System and the opening of data to programme development companies via the Application Programming Interface like other government departments.

Interim Report on the “Joyful Reading at Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels” Pilot Project (PLAC 2/2021)

2. Members noted the overview of the interim report on the pilot project and made the following suggestions:

- (a) With the increasing popularity of parent-child camping, there were schools holding campus activities for students and parents to experience stargazing under the tent and learn together. Consideration could be given to organising outdoor reading activities at venues under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to tie in with the theme of “Starry Night in Fairy Tales” of Library-on-Wheels when the pandemic eased.
- (b) It was suggested that children who visited Library-on-Wheels be invited to give comments on books for the selection of “star-rated” books, echoing the theme of “Starry Night in Fairy Tales”.
- (c) Enquiry was raised on whether members of the public without library cards could apply one at Library-on-Wheels for immediate use.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee

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