Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 30th Meeting Held on 1 February 2018

Work Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries (2018-19) (PLAC 1/2018)

1.   Members noted the highlights of the work plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) in 2018-19 and made the following suggestions:

    (a) To consider designing refreshing catchphrases and slogans for large-scale reading promotion activities and holding them at major venues so as to enhance publicity effects and arouse the society's attention.

    (b) To contemplate ways to develop reading as a shared habit, such as storytelling to encourage cross-generation reading, organising guided reading activities, and inviting the younger generation to share the classic books and writings of the older generation.

    (c) To include elements such as the sharing of book reviews and new reading experiences in the activities of the signing of the Reading Charter so as to attract more people to develop an interest in reading through the recounting of the benefits of reading by various readers.

    (d) To explore how to integrate with the Hong Kong Education City to enrich online educational resources.

    (e) To consider collaboration with schools in sharing subject-related collections to facilitate a one-stop search of information and attract students to visit libraries for borrowing the collections.

    (f) To analyse data on reading habits of readers and their interest in participating in library extension activities for fine-tuning the business direction and work priorities of libraries with a view to promoting reading in a more effective manner.

    (g) To consider optimising the use of library space and capitalising on the advantages brought by the provision of Wi-Fi service in the libraries to attract working class to visit libraries for using relevant facilities and services.

Collection Development Plan of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (2018-19)
(PLAC 2/2018)

2.   Members noted the collection development plan of the HKPL in 2018-19 and made the following suggestions:

(a)   To consider acquiring collections closely related to the daily lives of the public to accommodate their current needs, preferences and concerns.

(b)   To consider deploying the following means to attract more people to visit libraries and borrow the collections:

(i)   Make reference to the practice of major bookstores and display the books relating to the hot topics in Hong Kong or needs of the general public at conspicuous places to attract patrons' attention and facilitate borrowing, and expedite replenishment of borrowed items to increase the circulation rate.

(ii)   Consider revamping the classification of books to keep popular terms abreast of social trends, so as to facilitate readers in their search of books and heighten their desire to read.

(iii)   Utilise popular media for simple promotion of library collections, such as citing touching quotes/sound bites from books to attract people to borrow them.

(iv)   Adopt intelligent programmes for tagging library materials in order to enhance library databases and strengthen the keyword search function linked with the Internet with a view to improving library collections on a continuous basis.

(c)   To acquire audio-visual materials in Blu-ray format and restored version to support the development of the film industry and alleviate the problem of illegal downloading and copyright infringement.

(d)   To consider deployment of library staff to cope with referrals from schools, and further educate parents on how they could help their children search for suitable books and information.

Progress Report on the "Feasibility Study on Redevelopment of Hong Kong Public Libraries Information Systems" (PLAC 3/2018)

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

(a)   In reviewing whether libraries should move towards electronic library services, reference could be made to the development of libraries in other countries.   Should electronic library services be considered the future trend, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department should consider seriously the cost-effectiveness of the application of Radio Frequency Identification technology in library services.

(b)   It would be advisable for libraries to strike a balance between development of e-book collection and retention of printed books to cater for the needs of different reader groups.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee

July 2018