

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB191

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Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the Government will continue to enrich library e-resources including e-books and continue to develop library systems leveraging technology to enhance the delivery of library services. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a. What are the expected commissioning date and details of the new Smart Library System?
- b. Regarding the "eReading Corner" promotion campaign organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2022, what were the number of participants and the number of downloads of e-books?
- c. Will the LCSD consider developing smart self-charging terminals and providing the terminals at leisure venues under the LCSD on a pilot basis to promote reading for all?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- a. To enhance the overall library services, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is now developing a Smart Library System, which will include a full application of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to enable the development of more diversified and user-friendly self-service facilities; the provision of additional self-charging terminals and book drops; and the installation of smart lockers for members of the public to pick up reserved materials when libraries are closed. The new system will be implemented in phases with target commissioning dates tabulated below:

System and Functions	Target Implementation Date
Core library functions - Digital Resources Management - Integrated Library System	Second half of 2023 Second half of 2024
RFID technology - to provide RFID-enabled self-service equipment in libraries for the processing of functions such as borrowing and return of library materials and collection of reserved materials	Second half of 2024
Remaining system functions (such as Business Intelligence System)	Second half of 2025

- b. The LCSD organised the “60 e-books of Librarians’ Choice x eReading Corner” promotion campaign in 2022, which recorded a total of 24 089 readers and 123 667 downloads and browses of e-books.
- c. The LCSD provides self-service library stations (library stations) under a trial scheme, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at 3 convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow but far from existing libraries, rendering round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. The 3 library stations are located at the Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area, Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Kowloon, and Tsuen Nam Road, Tai Wai of the New Territories respectively, providing services for the public. The LCSD will consider providing additional library stations at other venues under its purview.

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