

---

This item was submitted to [Loughborough's Research Repository](#) by the author.  
Items in Figshare are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

## **A study of the development of public libraries in Hong Kong, 1842–1989**

PLEASE CITE THE PUBLISHED VERSION

PUBLISHER

Loughborough University of Technology

LICENCE

CC BY-NC 4.0

REPOSITORY RECORD

Ma, L.Y.. 2021. "A Study of the Development of Public Libraries in Hong Kong, 1842–1989". Loughborough University. <https://doi.org/10.26174/thesis.lboro.14680164.v1>.

A study of the development of public libraries  
in Hong Kong (1842-1989)

by

MA, L.Y.

A Master's Dissertation, submitted in partial  
fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the  
Master of Arts degree of the  
Loughborough University of Technology

September 1990

Supervisor: L.G.Durbidge, M.A., F.L.A.  
Lecturer,  
Department of Library and Information Studies

© MA, L.Y. 1990

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor, Mr L.G. Durbidge, for his kindness, patience and prompt reading of my script.

I would also like to thank my sister for her moral support and encouragement.

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the development of public libraries in Hong Kong. During the 19th century there were a few small libraries. During 1940-1960's, there was a great increase in the population. As education facilities were not well developed, various voluntary agencies began to set up public libraries, especially for children so as to enable them to read.

From 1961-1972, there was a gradual development of government public libraries. The most important was the opening of the City Hall Library in 1962. The Hong Kong government began to consider the expansion of public library services and the Urban Council has been given the responsibility for public library operation in the urban area. Other voluntary agencies and cultural organisations continued to provide public library services.

From 1973 onwards, there has been a rapid development of Urban Council Public Libraries and services. During 1973-89, there has been new development and innovation of library services, expansion of extension activities, increase of library stock and borrowers as well as a great increase in the usage of library facilities. As satellite towns developed in the New Territories, more public libraries were established to serve the residents in them. In 1986, the Regional Council took on the responsibility for public library operation in the New Territories. On the other hand, other voluntary agencies have gradually lessened their role in providing public library services.

The Hong Kong Library Association helps to encourage the establishment of libraries, improve library services and efficiency, provide education and training for librarianship in Hong Kong. In cooperation with the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the two universities, a sub-professional training has been provided since 1964. In 1981, a professional course for librarianship was started.

## CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	ii
Abstract	iii
 Chapter 1	
<u>BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HONG KONG</u>	
1.1 History	1
1.2 Geography	1
1.3 Government	2
1.4 Population	2
1.5 Education	3
1.6 Economy	5
1.7 Communication	5
1.8 Languages	6
 Chapter 2	
<u>THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN HONG KONG</u>	
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Morrison Library	7
2.3 The China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society	7
2.4 Victoria Library and Reading Room	8
2.5 The amalgamation of the three libraries	8
 Chapter 3	
<u>THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1940-1960)</u>	
3.1 Introduction	11
3.2 Libraries run by the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce	11

3.3	Libraries of the Social and Community Centres run by the Group and Community Work Division of the Social Welfare Department	12
3.3.1	The Princess Alexandra Community Centre Library	13
3.3.2	Wong Tai Sin Community Centre Library	13
3.4	Libraries run by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association	13
3.5	Adult Education & Recreation Centre Libraries	15
3.6	Libraries set up by cultural organisations	16
3.6.1	The British Council Library	16
3.6.2	The United States Cultural Centre Library	16
3.6.3	Alliance Française Library	17
3.7	Special Public Library	17
3.7.1	Mencius Union Library	17
3.8	General features of the public libraries (1940-1960)	18

#### Chapter 4

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1961-1972)

4.1	Introduction	22
4.2	The report of the Advisory Committee on Library Services	23

4.2.1	The extent of literacy	23
4.2.2	Existing Libraries	24
4.2.3	Other factors influencing the provision of library services	24
4.2.4	The general pattern of the library services	24
4.2.5	Recommendations	25
4.3	Urban Council Public Libraries	29
4.3.1	Background information on Urban Council	29
4.3.2	Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the main aims of the Urban Council library services	31
4.3.3	City Hall Library and the Branch Libraries	37
4.4	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association Libraries	44
4.5	Social Welfare Department Libraries	45
4.6	Adult Education and Recreation Centre Libraries	46
4.7	Caritas Centre Libraries	46
4.8	The Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce Libraries	47
4.9	Libraries set up by cultural organisations	48
4.9.1	Goethe Institute German Cultural Centre Library	48
4.9.2	Japan Information and Cultural Office Library	49
4.9.3	British Council Libraries	49
4.9.4	American Library	49

4.9.5	Alliance Française Library	50
4.10	Special Public Libraries	50
4.10.1	Baptist Library	50
4.10.2	Sun Yat-sen Library	50

## Chapter 5

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1973-1989)

5.1	Introduction	55
5.2	Factors affecting the development of public libraries	56
5.3	Urban Council Public Libraries	58
5.3.1	The increasing number of public libraries	58
5.3.2	New development and innovation of library services	60
5.3.3	The expansion of extension activities	67
5.3.4	The growth of library stock and registered borrowers	70
5.3.5	The increased usage of library facilities	72
5.4	Regional Council Public Libraries	77
5.4.1	Background information on Regional Council	78
5.4.2	Development of libraries in the New Territories	78
5.4.3	The development and innovation of library services and facilities by the Regional Council	81
5.5	Libraries run by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association	86



5.6	Adult Education and Recreation Centre Libraries	87
5.7	Libraries set up by the Salvation Army	87
5.8	Special Public Libraries	88
5.8.1	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service. Pak Tin Children & Youth Centre Study & Reading Room	88
5.8.2	Hong Kong PHAB Association. Lam Tin PHAB Centre	88
5.8.3	St. James' Settlement Library & Study Centre	89
5.9	Libraries set up by cultural organisations	89
5.9.1	American Library	89
5.9.2	British Council Library	90
5.9.3	Goethe Institute German Cultural Centre Library	90
5.9.4	Japan Information and Cultural Office Library	90
5.10	The importance of library services provided by voluntary agencies	91
Chapter 6	<u>THE HONG KONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATION</u>	98
Chapter 7	<u>THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR LIBRARIANSHIP</u>	102
Chapter 8	<u>CONCLUSIONS</u>	113

## CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HONG KONG

### 1.1: History

Hong Kong is on the south-east coast of China, adjoining the province of Kwangtung. Before 1841, Hong Kong was a part of Mainland China. As a result of the Opium War, under the Convention of Chuenpi, January 20, 1841, Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain by the Chinese government. After the second Anglo-Chinese War of 1956-8, under the Convention of Peking, 1860, the Kowloon peninsula (south of the Boundary street and the nearby Stonecutters Island) became a part of the British colony. By the Convention of Peking of 1898, Britain negotiated with China because of rivalry between the western powers over concessions in China and because of fear of French and Russia ambitions in the Far East, Hong Kong's boundaries were again further extended by a 99-year lease of the mainland north of Kowloon, together with some 235 islands in the vicinity. This extension soon acquired the name New Territories.

### 1.2: Geography

Hong Kong is on the south-east coast of China. It is just inside the tropics, being less than 100 miles south of the tropic of cancer, and lies between latitudes 22°9' and 22°37'N and longitudes 113°52' and 114°30'E. The twin cities of Victoria on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon on the mainland stand on either side of the harbour and are about 90 miles south-east of Canton and 40 miles east of Portuguese Macau.

The total land area of the Colony is  $398\frac{1}{4}$  sq. miles (1071 square kilometres), made up as follows:

- (a) Hong Kong Island, including a number of small adjacent islets: 29 square miles.
- (b) Kowloon and Stonecutters Island:  $3\frac{1}{4}$  square miles.
- (c) The New Territories, which consist of a substantial section of the mainland and over 230 islands:  $365\frac{1}{2}$  square miles.

### 1.3: Government

As a British colony, Hong Kong is administered by a Governor appointed by the Queen of Great Britain. The Governor presides at the meetings of the Executive Council, whose advice he seeks on important policy matters. He is also the President of the Legislative Council, where he possesses both an original and a casting vote. All bills passed by the Legislative Council must have his assent before becoming law.

Other governmental bodies besides the two Councils are Judiciary, Urban Council, Regional Council, Colonial Secretariat, London Office, Legal Aid, Advisory Committees and Government Departments.

The structure of the Government is always changing. There were institutional and organizational developments during the past years in order to meet the needs of the community of Hong Kong.

### 1.4: Population

The population of Hong Kong grew rapidly after the second World War. The increase was made up

chiefly of excess births rate over deaths and inward migration particularly of refugees from Mainland China in 1949 and the early 1960's.

More than 98% of the population can be described as Chinese on the basis of language and place of origin. In 1989, it is estimated about 59 per cent of the population is of Hong Kong birth. Most of these people, and the greater part of the immigrant population originated from Kwangtung province in China. Up to 1989, there were about 5.7 million people living in Hong Kong.

There are many non-Chinese people in Hong Kong. These comprise British, Indian, Australian, Korean, Singaporean, Canadian, American, Portuguese, Dutch, Filipino, Japanese, Pakistani, Indonesian, German and French.

### 1.5: Education

The earliest schools were founded by missionary bodies who conducted their schools on mainly western lines. As population grew, educational institutions were gradually developed to meet the growing needs of the people. After 1945, there has been the steadily increasing part which the government has played in the provision of more schools and colleges.

In Hong Kong, general education consists of kindergarten, 6 years of primary education, 5 years of secondary education, and 1 or 2 years of matriculation education before university or college education.

The Director of Education directly controls all government schools, while all other schools are required to register under the Ordinance, which provides the Director with the necessary power to ensure that acceptable standards are maintained.

The government has been concerned to expand education services. Since September 1971, primary education has been free in all government schools and in nearly all aided schools.

A milestone in the development of Hong Kong's education system was achieved in 1978 with the introduction of nine years' free schooling for every child. From September 1978, the government was able to provide, in addition to six years' primary education sufficient places for every primary school-leaver to proceed to three years of secondary education. This was carried out by abolishing the Secondary School Entrance Examination which formerly all primary pupils from government and grant-in-aid primary schools were required to pass before getting into secondary schools. This had served to restrict entrance to secondary schools when there were more pupils than schools could take in.

Recently, there has been an expansion of tertiary education. More places are available in tertiary educational institutes to meet the needs of students who want to pursue higher education.

Besides the two universities, the University of Hong Kong founded in 1911 and the Chinese University of Hong Kong founded in 1963, there are a number of

post-secondary colleges and technical institutes providing tertiary education. They are the Hong Kong Polytechnic, the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist College, Shue Yan College, Lingnan College as well as other various technical institutes and private colleges.

#### 1.6: Economy

Hong Kong possesses practically nothing in the way of natural resources. Its economy relies for its success upon industry, tourism and external trade. It has developed from the principal entrepot for Southern China to one of the main exporters of its own manufactured goods in the world. The main exports are clothing, textiles, electronic products, toys and watches.

Nowadays, Hong Kong is one of the leading manufacturing and commercial centre in the world. It also became an important financial centre recently.

#### 1.7: Communication

Hong Kong is one of the leading communication centres. The availability in Hong Kong of the latest in telecommunication technology helps to ensure that up-to-the -minute information is provided, and it also attracts international news media representatives to establish their regional bases here.

Ninety or so news agencies, newspapers, with international coverage and readerships and overseas broadcasting corporations have established offices

in Hong Kong. Furthermore, regional publications produced here have flourished, reflecting the territory's enhanced position as a financial, industrial, trading and communication centre.

#### 1.8: Languages

Being a British colony, English has been the only official language until 1970, when the citizens proposed the equal employment of Chinese as the official language. Thus in 1973 a law was passed enabling the use of Chinese as the second official language.

In primary school, the medium of instruction is Chinese. English is taught as a second language. In most secondary schools, English is the first language. Therefore most people in Hong Kong are biligual.

[The information in this section has been taken from the Hong Kong Annual Reports"]

## CHAPTER 2: THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN HONG KONG

### 2.1: Introduction

The history of public libraries in Hong Kong during the 19th century is confined to a few small libraries.

### 2.2: Morrison Library

The Morrison Library was started at the English Factory in Canton in China in 1806. When the East India Company lost its charter in 1834, the collection of books in its factory at Canton was broken up; but many found their way into the library of a new institution, the Morrison Education Society.<sup>1</sup> The Society was moved to Macao in 1941. Later in the year, it was moved to Hong Kong. In 1842, the Morrison Library had 3,500 volumes which were housed in the Society headquarters on Morrison Hill.<sup>2</sup> As a result of financial crisis, its premises had to be closed down in 1849. The library was re-opened in a room in the court house in 1855.<sup>3</sup>

### 2.3: The China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

The first institution originating within the colony to have its own library was the Medical Society which was formed by a group of Medical Gentlemen in 1845. The Library had a small collection of the best periodicals and the most valuable standard medical works of the day. Later, the Medical Society was incorporated into the Philosophical Society of China,



founded in 1847, which changed its name to the Asiatic Society of China in January. It eventually became the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in the same year.<sup>4</sup>

#### 2.4: Victoria Library and Reading Room

The Victoria Library was founded in 1848. It was a subscription library and was widely used in its early years. Other details about this library cannot be traced now.<sup>5</sup>

#### 2.5: The amalgamation of the three libraries

As a result of the growing demand for a public library, the first City Hall containing a library and museum was opened on 2nd November, 1869.<sup>6</sup>

As early as 1863, the Morrison Education Society had proposed to offer its own books and those of the Royal Asiatic Society's China Branch, which it had accepted when the branch became defunct in 1859, as the nucleus of a reference library to be located in the City Hall.<sup>7</sup>

When the City Hall was opened in 1869, the Morrison Education Society's Library was presented to this City Hall and the reference library came into existence. It was not until a year or two later that the collection of the Victoria Library was added to it.<sup>8</sup> When the amalgamation of the three collections was finished in 1871, it was estimated that the total holding was 8,000 volumes.

In 1914, the Morrison Education Society's Library was moved to the University of Hong Kong which was founded in 1911.<sup>9</sup> The City Hall Library continued to survive. Many of the excellent local collections were not preserved however. It had never provided full public library facilities for the people of Hong Kong. In 1932, the City Hall Library was dispersed when the government decided to resume possession of the land, and the building was demolished.

## REFERENCES

1. Rydings, H.A. Hong Kong, libraries in. In Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, v.10. New York; Marcel Dekker, 1973. pp.478-493.
2. Kan, Lai Bing. Libraries in Hong Kong; a directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1963.
3. Rydings, H.A. Hong Kong, libraries in. In Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, v.10. New York; Marcel Dekker, 1973. pp.478-493.
4. Ibid., pp.478-493.
5. Ibid., pp.478-493.
6. Kan, Lai Bing. Libraries in Hong Kong; a directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1963.
7. Rydings, H.A. Hong Kong, libraries in. In Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, v.10. New York; Marcel Dekker, 1973. pp.478-493.
8. Ibid., pp.478-493.
9. Kan, Lai Bing. Libraries in Hong Kong; a directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1963.

## CHAPTER 3: THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1940-1960)

### 3.1: Introduction

During the 1940's, there was a great increase in the size of the population. People came from mainland China to Hong Kong as a result of the World War II and the Civil War in China (1945-1949).

The birth rate was high after the war. Education facilities were not well developed. Only a small number of children could go to school. As a result, it was realised that there was a great need for children's libraries where those who could not afford to buy books and could not get into schools were able to read decent books and magazines. Various organizations provided library services to children during this period.

### 3.2: Libraries run by the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce

The Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce has always been keen on the promotion of social welfare, especially for children. It had been very active in establishing libraries for children in schools and welfare centres. Starting from 1951, the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce began to set up public libraries for children. In 1953,<sup>1</sup> it also considered the question of a travelling library to serve children in various part of the colony. By 1954,<sup>2</sup> the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce had established twelve children's libraries in various

districts. In 1955,<sup>3</sup> in addition to their 12 children's libraries already operating in various districts, it handed over to the Social Welfare Office (The Social Welfare Office was established as a specialized sub-department of the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs in August 1947) in March a mobile library for the use of non-school children in the New Territories. In 1958,<sup>4</sup> the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce also equipped and stocked two more libraries, making a total of fifteen since the Chamber first became interested in this form of public service in 1951.

Children's libraries continued to be very popular, particularly with those who could not afford to buy books and could not get into schools. In 1959,<sup>5</sup> the Chamber equipped and stocked another library in a resettlement estate, making a total of sixteen since the first library was established in 1951. By 1960,<sup>6</sup> the Junior Chamber of Commerce had equipped and stocked nineteen libraries for children.

### 3.3: Libraries of the Social and Community Centres run by the Group and Community Work Division of the Social Welfare Department

The mobile library, a gift from the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce to the Social Welfare Office, started to serve the large number of non-school children in the New Territories in 1955. Towards the end of 1955, the library also visited regularly the Tai Hang Tung, Li Cheng UK and Shek Kip Mei Resettlement Estates to serve the non-school children. The mobile library even served some adults

in the New Territories. By 1960, the van visited sixteen different districts regularly and the number of readers averaged 2,500 a month, mostly children.

Besides operating the mobile library, the Social Welfare Department also ran two libraries in 1960 by itself.

#### 3.3.1: The Princess Alexandra Community Centre Library

This library was located in Tsuen Wan, New Territories. It was established in August 1960. The main users of the library were factory workers and school children. The main subjects of the book stock were literature and technology. Fiction occupied 20% of the total holding.<sup>7</sup>

#### 3.3.2: Wong Tai Sin Community Centre Library

The library was opened to the public on June, 1960. By 1961, it has 1962 registered borrowers. The total bookstock was 21,000 volumes. Most were children's books. Fiction comprised 30% of the total. Both Chinese and English books were provided. In order to promote the services of the library, extension activities in the form of Children's Readers' Club, art and literature activities were organised.<sup>8</sup>

#### 3.4: Libraries run by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association

The Boy's and Girls' Clubs Association was founded and run as constructive attempts to improve the social conditions and character of poor boys and girls, particularly "street boys" through a programme

of physical, mental and social activities.<sup>9</sup>

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association operated a number of libraries in its member clubs which were opened to children and youth between the age of eight and eighteen. The book collection of each library varied from 5,000 to 10,000 volumes and there was always a study room attached to the library. The libraries served as a place where children, young and old, went not only to read or borrow their favourite books and make use of the reference materials, but also to do their homework and take part in different programmes and activities. Programmes and activities varied from library to library but the emphasis was on those with a strong cultural content. These included readers' bulletins, philately, scrapbooks on current subjects, essay writing, communication of collections, etc. For the younger readers, competitions on calligraphy, picture colouring or simple crossword puzzles were the most popular activities.

The first library opened by the Association was the Boy's and Girls' Clubs Association Headquarters' Children's library. It was opened on 1st December, 1958. The second library was the Kwun Tong "B" Children's library founded in 1959 and the third library, the Healthy Village Children's library was started on 21st March, 1960. These libraries provided a comprehensive book stock. The libraries had thousands volumes of Chinese books and several hundred English books. About 10% of the book stock was fiction. The libraries also had a number of back issues of periodicals.

Travel libraries were provided by the Headquarters' Children's Library. Forty boxes of books of different grades were circulated to the clubs of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association in different districts where there were no library facilities. Each box contained between 80 and 100 books of one grade. One box was left with each club for a period of two weeks which was extendable if desired.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.5: Adult Education & Recreation Centre Libraries

These libraries were operated by the Adult Education Section of the Hong Kong government's Education Department. The Centres were all operated in the premises of Government Primary Schools. The first centre was started in October 1955. By 1960, there were altogether 12 centres libraries. The libraries were opened to all adult registered members of the community, e.g. factory workers, hawkers, housewives, young shop-keepers and junior government servants. Membership required identity cards. Each Library used an ordinary classroom in the school as a temporary reading room where borrowing and staff guidance were available. The libraries provided Chinese and English books, periodicals and newspapers to the readers.

Extension activities such as public lectures, specialists talks, film and filmstrip shows were arranged periodically. In addition, the Adult Education Section of the Education Department published three issues a year of the Adult Education Bulletin which contained information about the centres and their libraries.



### 3.6: Libraries set up by cultural organisations

These libraries have been set up to promote a wider knowledge of their providing countries, to promote a wider knowledge of their country's language, to promote closer cultural relations between the providing countries and other countries as well as to disseminate favourable information about the providing countries.

#### 3.6.1: The British Council Library

The British Council Library (Hong Kong) has been in existence since 1948 and the British Council Library (Kowloon) was started in 1959. The libraries were opened to the public and students. A comprehensive book stock was provided with all subjects represented except medicine. By 1960, they had 16,500 volumes of books. The total borrowing readers were estimated to be 5,700.

Extension activities include public lectures, exhibitions, book displays, displayed of photographs, posters, visual-aid material and film shows.<sup>11</sup>

#### 3.6.2: The United States Cultural Centre Library

Formerly known as the United States Information Service Library, this library was first established in May 1950. With the closure of the USIS library in February 1957, all the books and equipment were transferred to this new library. The new library was opened to the public on 5th June, 1957. It has a comprehensive collection of American books. The main subjects are science and technology. About

14% of the book stock was fiction.

Extension activities include public lectures, exhibitions, book displays and film shows.<sup>12</sup>

### 3.6.3: Alliance Francaise Library

The library was established in March 1953 and opened to all readers of French. It has a comprehensive book stock with some books for children. 50% of the book stock was fiction. All the books, periodicals and newspapers are in French. By 1960, it had approximately 250 borrowing readers. The total number of books was 7,000.

Extension work of the library includes public lectures, exhibitions, book displays and audio-visual programmes.<sup>13</sup>

### 3.7: Special Public Library

These libraries are either owned by a company or members of the community.

#### 3.7.1: Mencius Union Library

This library was established in 1953 by the Mencius Educational Foundation as a library open to the public to increase the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture. Users were mostly post-secondary, high-school students, teachers and scholars. Besides Chinese and English books, several hundred volumes of Japanese books were provided.<sup>14</sup>

3.8: General features of the public libraries  
(1940-1960)

The public libraries of 1940-1960 have common characteristics:

- (1) They were usually small in size and were usually housed in a small building or a room in leased premises.
- (2) Although the book stocks were rather comprehensive, the number of books was still very small. The total number of books was between 3,000 to 21,000.
- (3) Nearly all the libraries placed great emphasis on the promotion of extension activities. In order to attract more people in using the library facilities and to promote the library services, extension activities were organised throughout the year.
- (4) All the libraries were opened to the public without charges. No fee was payable.
- (5) All the libraries had inexperienced "library keepers" rather than librarians in charge of them. There were no professionally librarians in running the libraries. The number of non-professional staff was limited from one to five. Very often, part-time staff was employed.
- (6) While many libraries existed in Hong Kong, few were available to the general public (particularly to adults).

- (7) The expenditure on books was in many cases inadequate properly to maintain or improve the existing stock. The annual expenditure on books ranged from HK\$ 600 to HK\$ 10,000.

## REFERENCES

1. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1953. Hong Kong Government Press.
2. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1954. Hong Kong Government Press.
3. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1955. Hong Kong Government Press.
4. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1958. Hong Kong Government Press.
5. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1959. Hong Kong Government Press.
6. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1960. Hong Kong Government Press.
7. Kan, Lai Bing. Library Services in Hong Kong; a new directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1975.
8. Ibid.
9. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association. Annual Report, 1938.
10. Kan, Lai Bing. Libraries in Hong Kong; a directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1963.
11. Ibid

12. Ibid

13. Ibid

14. Ibid

## CHAPTER 4: THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1961-1972)

#### 4.1: Introduction

From 1961-1972, there was a gradual development of government public libraries in Hong Kong. The growth and development of libraries clearly demonstrated recognition and support for the vital role that libraries played in enriching the mind. It also indicated the importance of information to the development of Hong Kong in various aspects. The number of public libraries doubled or even tripled when compared with the previous period. During this period, the most important development in the public library field was the opening of the new City Hall Library on 5th March, 1962. This library had been planned for a long time. In Old Hong Kong, it said,

"In the article on the City Hall (17.6.33) reference was made to the commencement of the public library housed therein, which had its nucleus in 1869. The books remaining from the library are now housed temporarily at the Old Seamen's Institute, pending possible opening of a library building at some future date. It may have occurred to readers that a community of progressive merchants and officials and their families, such as opened up the Colony in its early years, would naturally not go long without a library of a kind; and in delving into the records one finds that this was the case".<sup>1</sup>

From this, it can be seen that a public library would come into existence sooner or later. Thus, in 1952, a preparatory committee for a new City Hall Library was set up. In 1959, a librarian was appointed for the planning of the new City Hall Library. Though she resigned from her post in 1960, the acquisition of books by purchase had continued under the direction of the City Hall Manager at an increased rate, and the processes of preliminary registering and cataloguing were instituted.<sup>2</sup>

The City Hall Library building was part of an eleven-storey block in the heart of the city's business centre. The City Hall Library was first opened on three floors of the City Hall High Block, one of which was an administrative centre.

#### 4.2: The report of the Advisory Committee on Library Services

When the City Hall Library was opened, at the same time, a committee was appointed by the Hong Kong Government to consider the expansion of public library services. The report of the Advisory Committee on Library Services in 1963 provided a survey of public library services in Hong Kong with recommendations for their development. It showed that there was a growing awareness of the need for library services in Hong Kong.

In the report,<sup>3</sup> the Advisory Committee made the following points:



#### 4.2.1: The extent of literacy

In considering the development of library services, the small number of existing potential users should not be the criterion for determining the level of provision. The growing literacy of the community should be considered, as it was estimated that in twenty years the literate population may rise to two and a half million, many of whom will be bilingual. Furthermore, libraries and those who use them have an important part to play in raising the educational, economic and cultural level of a developing society.

#### 4.2.2: Existing libraries

The service provided by existing libraries is insufficient to meet the needs of the rapidly growing literate population.

#### 4.2.3: Other factors influencing the provision of library services

Although the future development of much of the colony and the distribution of its population cannot be predicted with any high degree of accuracy, it is apparent that the first step in developing library services must be to provide basic services for these existing centres of population. Attention can then be given to the extension of services there and the provision of services in smaller population centres.

#### 4.2.4: The general pattern of the library service

The Committee visualizes the gradual growth, at a rate related to the Colony's finances, of a

public library system embracing a central library in Victoria, a branch in Kowloon (proposed for the Yau Ma Tei district), and a number of smaller branches and bookmobiles as required. There appears, in addition, to be a need for Government libraries to provide specialized facilities for bona fide students.

Even when full branch and bookmobile services are eventually realized, there will be small isolated groups, notably on the various islands of the Colony, without direct service. The most appropriate means of securing early service to these groups would seem to be through the organisation of library clubs, delegating a member of the community to be responsible for a small temporary deposit collection of books.

#### 4.2.5: Recommendations

##### (1) Policy

The Committee endorses with minor amendments, as a broad policy for the provision of books and other materials, a statement by the City Hall (Policy) Select Committee. The amended statement is as follows:

The public library aims to provide for all residents of Hong Kong within the limits of the Colony's resources and without bias: information on all subjects; material for informal education; and intelligent recreation.

A collection of the standard works of literature, science, and reference shall form the basis of the library's collections; but the collections shall not be confined to works which are uncontroversial. Selection, on the basis of sound literacy and

artistic merit, importance in current affairs or the history of ideas, or informational value, may be made from contemporary works, works of an experimental nature, or works that deal with matters upon which no general consensus of opinion exists.

(2) Development programmes

The Committee recommends the adoption of a three-phase initial development programme, to provide basic services in Victoria and Kowloon:

Phase 1 Opening of a third public floor in the City Hall Library.

Phase 2 Preparation for a branch library in Yau Ma Tei.

Phase 3 Opening of a fourth public floor in the City Hall Library.

Opening of the Yau Ma Tei branch library.

As this programme nears completion it will be possible to assess with greater accuracy than can be done at present the demand for further expansion of the library service. If the demand for books is as great in Hong Kong as in many other parts of the world, the above proposals will fall far short of what is needed in the Colony. Consequently, before the completion of the above programmes urgent consideration should be given to the subsequent incorporation of Social Welfare Department libraries into the general service, and the establishment of other necessary branches.

The establishment of libraries in resettlement estates and other places where the library service

could prove most effective should be encouraged.

(3) Control of the library service

To facilitate control of library services beyond the City Hall the Committee recommends that the Urban Council should be given the responsibility for carrying out the above proposals. The Urban Council may then wish to consider forming a select committee responsible for public library operation. Further examination of these administrative arrangements would be necessary at such time as the library service were extended beyond the urban areas.

(4) Training of staff

1 As part of a programme of training locally recruited personnel, it is recommended that:

- (a) in 1963 one suitable Library Assistant II with a degree should be sent to England for postgraduate training in one of the recognized schools of librarianship; during his absence a supernumerary replacement should be provided; and on his return, he should assume one of the posts of Assistant Librarian;
- (b) in 1964 two persons should be sent for training;
- (c) 1965 training needs should be determined during 1964.

- 2 Non-graduates might be considered for two-year training courses abroad, but only if they were exceptionally outstanding individuals.
- 3 The Committee also feels that study tours of libraries abroad would be valuable for locally recruited senior members of the library staff.

(5) Charges for library service

The Committee gave special consideration to the question of whether a direct charge should be made for the provision of public library service. The Committee was unanimous in recommending that no charge should be imposed for the use of books on the library premises, and that the loans of books to children for home reading should remain free.

By looking at the contents of the report, it can be seen that a well-planned full-scale library service was intended to be provided in Hong Kong. In order to facilitate the provision of library services, an ad hoc committee was established by the Urban Council to study the Advisory Committee's proposals on library services. Soon after 1963, there were an increasing number of public libraries set up by the Urban Council. More development plans on library services have been made and carried by the Urban Council in order to meet the needs of the community.

Two years later, the Marsh and Sampson report was published followed by the White Paper on Education policy in 1965. Both reports recommended the provision of library facilities in the form of reference and fiction services as measures to improve the quality of education.

As a result, starting from 1960, there has been a gradual growth of public libraries in Hong Kong. Apart from the library services provided by the Urban Council, other voluntary agencies and organisations continued to play an active part in

providing public library services. The most important of these are those run by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association, Social Welfare Department and the Education Department.

#### 4.3: Urban Council Public Libraries

##### 4.3.1: Background information on Urban Council

The Urban Council, like many other local authorities throughout the world, originated in the community's concern with public health. In fact, a Committee of Public Health and Cleansing was succeeded by a Sanitary Board in 1883. Members of the Public were appointed to the Board by the Governor in 1886 and two years later came the election of two members.

The Sanitary Board gradually developed and gained additional responsibilities until, in 1935, it was recognised and renamed the Urban Council.

Before it was reconstituted in April 1973 the Council consisted of six official members, of whom the Director of Urban Services was ex-officio Chairman of the Council, ten elected and ten appointed members. Between 1935 and 1973 the Council had assumed, step by step, many of the functions performed by other municipal bodies. Its committees had always been chaired by Government officials but the responsibilities of the non-Government (unofficial)

members of the Council increased steadily so that by 1965 all committees, except the Standing Committee of the whole Council and the Council of the whole, were chaired by unofficials.

After considerable deliberation, the Council was totally reconstituted on 1st April, 1973. All official members were withdrawn from the Council, and the number of ordinary members increased to twenty-four: twelve appointed by the Governor and twelve elected. The Council was also given the power to elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of all its Select Committees. Members serve for terms of four years. Elections are held in alternate years for six years at a time. All members are eligible for re-appointment or re-election.

At the time of its reconstruction in 1973, the Council was given the entire responsibility for its own finances, the sources of revenue being a proportion of the rates and, to a much lesser degree, money obtained from licence and other fees, market rents, etc.

The Urban Council is a self-governing official body which exercises statutory functions for the urban areas with a jurisdiction covering the provision of municipal services to the people of Hong Kong. The many services it must provide include public cleansing, food hygiene, protection of health, and the development of facilities for the enjoyment of sports, culture and recreation. The Council also has wide responsibilities which affect the daily lives and living conditions of the people in the urban areas

of Hong Kong. Since 1962, it also manages public libraries within the urban area.

Like other similar authorities the Council delegates most of its powers to Select Committees, sub-committees, boards, and panels. There most of its work is conducted. The Committee meets regularly to consider policy matters.

The executive arm of the Urban Council is the Urban Services Department and the Director of Urban Services is the principal executive officer of the Council, responsible for ensuring that its policies are implemented.<sup>4</sup>

4.3.2: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the main aims of the Urban Council library services

The first Urban Council library was set up in 1962 when the City Hall Library first opened to the public. Strictly speaking, the Urban Council runs the only fully public libraries in Hong Kong which provide, without bias, facilities for informal education, intelligent recreation and information on all subjects for all residents of Hong Kong. The Urban Council public libraries are also the only public libraries which provide services and facilities equal in range to those found in similar institutions abroad.

As the Urban Council accepted the responsibility for public library development, following the Government's acceptance in principal of the report of the



Advisory Committee on Library Services, in 1964, the Urban Council's own Ad Hoc Committee on Library Services prepared its report and made recommendations for branch library development and legislation, which were adopted by the Council and submitted to the Government. In the report,<sup>5</sup> recommendations for legislation permitting the Urban Council to operate library services included the following points:

(1) Legislation enabling the Urban Council to operate Public Library Services

It is recommended that Government should be asked to prepare and enact a short ordinance, perhaps to be entitled " The Libraries Ordinance ", providing simply for:

- (a) the operation of public libraries by the Urban Council;
- (b) the making of by-laws or regulations by the Urban Council, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council; and
- (c) the extension at any time in the future, by the Governor in Council, of the Urban Council's powers, to permit the extension of the library services to the New Territories.

(2) Matters to be included in by-laws or regulations under the proposed " Libraries Ordinance "

It seems desirable that these should combine matters covered by the present rules for the use of the City Hall Library and certain matters covered by the City Hall Regulations, together with a few other

matters, viz:

(a) Present rules for the use of the City Hall Library

1. The Library is open during the hours posted.
2. Books may be borrowed from the lending department of the Library for a period of two weeks unless otherwise marked.
3. The loan of a book may be renewed by bringing the book to the Library, provided it is not required by someone else, and at the discretion of the Librarian.
4. A charge will be made for books returned late, at the rate of 20 cents a day or part of a day for each book overdue.
5. One book may be borrowed on each reader's ticket. Borrowers will be held responsible for the use of tickets issued to them.
6. The loss of a ticket should be reported at once, and a charge of one dollar will be made for replacement. A reader should not attempt to join the Library again if he loses his ticket, but simply request its replacement.
7. Children under thirteen years of age may use the adult lending and reference departments only at the Librarian's discretion.
8. A fee of 20 cents will be charged for the reservation of any book.
9. A charge will be made for any book lost, equivalent to the list price of the book plus twenty per cent. Charges may also be made for damage to books, and readers

should therefore ensure before leaving the Library that any book borrowed by them is complete and undamaged.

10. When a borrower changes his address he should notify the Librarian immediately.

(b) Matters covered by the City Hall Regulations, 1961

1. The administration of the Library.
2. The prohibition of smoking, the consumption of food, etc., and the introduction of animals.
3. Powers to direct persons in certain cases to leave the Library premises or parts thereof.
4. Prohibition of the obstruction of library staff.

(c) Others matters

1. Prohibition of the soiling, or damaging or defacement of books.
2. Powers to regulate the introduction of bags and personal belongings into the library.
3. Powers to make rules concerning the issuing and withdrawal of borrowers' tickets.

(3) Branch library

As regard to the development of branch library, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee considered it was important to provide branch service in Kowloon at the

earliest possible date, both for the convenience of the public and to unburden the City Hall Library of some of the growing pressure being placed on it. It was estimated that approximately 39% of the books borrowed from the City Hall Library were taken by Kowloon residents.<sup>6</sup>

In order to promote the provision of an adequate public library services within the scope of the Libraries Ordinance 1965, the Urban Council clearly stated its aims in developing library services for the urban area.

In 1966, the Council stated its aims. They included:

1. To press for the early realization of a permanent Kowloon Public Library in Hung Ham.
2. Planning for the establishment of public libraries in Wah Fu Estate, Shum Shui Po and Shaukiwan.
3. Consideration of the taking over of responsibility of the Social Welfare Department Libraries.
4. Systematic build up of book-stocks in both the Kowloon and City Hall Libraries.
5. Development of library service in resettlement areas at suitable literacy levels in co-operation with the Housing Division.<sup>7</sup>

In 1969, the Council stated its aims. They included:

1. To continue the systematic building up of the book stock in the Urban Council Public Libraries with emphasis on the particular

needs of the community.

2. To consolidate and expand the existing services with particular efforts to cater for the younger generation.
3. To work towards the opening of more branch libraries by implementing the library expansion programme.
4. To raise the standard of the staff's professional knowledge through more intensive in-service training.
5. To establish more reading rooms as necessary.<sup>8</sup>

In 1970, the aims of the Urban Council were:

1. To open the Wah Fu Library, to prepare for the opening of the Yau Ma Tei Library and to plan for the opening of the Ping Shek Library.
2. To strengthen and expand library services for the public by:
  - a. expanding the collections of books, pamphlets and other printed materials related to all aspects of local history and activities.
  - b. working towards a centralized reference library in the City Hall with a more comprehensive stock and reference points throughout the library branches.
  - c. encouraging the younger generation to make greater and better use of library facilities through book exhibitions, story hours, visits to libraries by school children, etc.<sup>9</sup>

Statement of Aims of the Urban Council for 1971 included:

1. To develop further co-operation between the Urban Council Public Libraries and other libraries.
2. To complete the collection of local newspapers in microfilms.
3. To evaluate the use of study room facilities.<sup>10</sup>

In 1972, the Urban Council decided to press for the opening of the Gramophone Record and Tape Library in the City Hall Library. Besides, it also decided to assess the need for study room facilities and the best ways and means to meet the demand.<sup>11</sup>

Thus, the Urban Council public libraries' services gradually developed to fulfil these aims during the years, 1960-1972, when five libraries were established by the Urban Council. They were the City Hall Library (1962), Waterloo Road Branch Library (1965), Aberdeen/Pok Fu Lam Branch Library (1970), Yau Ma Tei Branch Library (1971) and Ping Shek Branch Library (1972).

#### 4.3.3: City Hall Library and the Branch Libraries

The City Hall Public Library was opened in March 1962. By the time the library opened on 5th March, some 18,750 English and Chinese books were fully prepared for public use, while a further 12,000 Chinese books, although not fully prepared, were made available for reference.<sup>12</sup>

Since 1950's, the Government had received several collections of books donated by some organisations or private collection.. The Maglioni Collection of books was donated to the Government by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong in 1954. It consisted of some 600 western books and journals and 500 Chinese volumes, mainly on the archaeology and anthropology of the Far East.<sup>13</sup>

The Sir Robert Kotewall Collection, also a gift to the Government, consisted of some 14,000 volumes of Chinese works and 4,200 other books.<sup>14</sup> The Hok Hoi Library of about 32,000 volumes of Chinese classical literature was on permanent loan to the Government.<sup>15</sup> Both the Kotewall Collection and the Hok Hoi Library formed a valuable basic collection of Chinese literature. They were housed in the City Hall Library where they were made available for consultation. The City Hall Library also possessed the complete National Library of Peking on 8,000 rolls of microfilm.<sup>16</sup>

Public demand for borrowing privileges was heavy, and by the end of March, over 10,000 readers tickets had been issued. Initial interest in the City Hall Library was strong. During 1962-63, an average of 15,133 books were borrowed from the lending department each month.<sup>17</sup> In addition, the reading room had been extensively used, particularly by children. The reference library was widely used by all walks of life, particularly students.

During 1963-64, several events took place in the library. The most important of these was the

opening of the fifth floor of the High Block as a separate junior library, thus providing better facilities for children and permitting the adult lending library to fill the whole of the third floor. A small collection of musical scores was also made available for loan, thus introducing a completely new facility to Hong Kong Public Library. At the end of the year, the stock consisted of 143,350 books and 1686 reels of microfilm, together with a small quantity of maps and other materials.<sup>18</sup> As a result of the growth of stock, borrowers were able to take two books at a time from the lending library instead of the single volume which could previously be borrowed.

During 1964-65, the book stock of the City Hall Library has increased by about 13,000 items. Two thirds of which were in Chinese and the remainder in English. The four sections serving the public.i.e. Junior Library, Adult Lending Library, Reference Library and Newspapers and Periodicals Reading room, occupied for separate floors instead of the previous three.

In 1965, a Kowloon branch library was set up. The establishment of the Kowloon branch was the first step in the overall expansion of the library service and plans for further branches were considered by the Library Select Committee during the year. This library was on the first floor of a new multi-storey building in Waterloo Road known as Cambridge Court. The rented area was almost equal to that of the combined accommodation of the City Hall Library. The opening of the Kowloon Branch Library in August 1965



received astonishing response. 13,362 residents got borrowers tickets and 153,712 books were issued in the first seven and a half months of operation.<sup>19</sup> It had an initial stock of 25,000 volumes which had grown to over 30,000 at the end of the year.<sup>20</sup>

At the end of 31st March, 1967, the total library stock has reached 223,092 volumes.<sup>21</sup> In this period, there were donations from various sources. They were:

1. British Book Development Council donated 2,014 volumes.
2. The Indian Government donated 318 volumes.
3. The Martin-Beheim Gesellschaft E.V. donated 250 volumes.
4. American Consulate-General donated 101 volumes.
5. Asia Foundation donated 76 volumes.

During 1966-67, new activities were introduced to help to promote the further use of the library resources. 293 displays and exhibitions of items linking with existing stock were mounted. Besides, organised visits to the libraries by classes of school children were arranged regularly to introduce children to the library facilities and to show them how to find books and information.

During 1967-68, several improvements and innovations in the Urban Council Public Library Service were introduced. More than 56,800 books were processed and added to stock for public use.<sup>22</sup> The City Hall Library has at present a microfilm collection and a microfilm reader available to research

workers on application. The collection consisted of 1,854 reels,<sup>23</sup> which included the rare Chinese classics of the Peking National Library, selected early newspapers of China coast and Hong Kong, and the Times newspapers from 1900-1966. Projects were in hand to microfilm a wider range of local newspapers and to expand the microfilm collection.

An exhibition of children's literature in both Chinese and English was arranged in June and there were also regular monthly displays of Chinese and English books for junior readers. In December, a Christmas card competition was held and more than 1,000 entries were received. During the year, seven exhibitions of books were mounted.

The year also saw a large increase in the number of donations received, amounting to more than 2,000 volumes. The most notable gifts were from the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. It donated 1,130 volumes. Dr. R.H.S. Lee donated 526 volumes, the Association of Certified and Corporated Associations donated 56 volumes, the French Consulate General donated 53 volumes, the Government of Uruguay donated 49 volumes, the German Consulate-General donated 44 volumes, the Royal-Swedish Consulate-General donated 38 volumes, the American Club donated 31 volumes and the Hong Kong Canadian Club donated 20 volumes.

Another advancement during 1967-68 was that the Urban Council began to take over book registration in Hong Kong, under the terms of Book Registration Ordinance, chapter 142, the books registered at the

City Hall Library were catalogued and listed in A Catalogue of Books printed in Hong Kong published, quarterly as a special supplement to the Hong Kong Government Gazette.<sup>24</sup>

During 1968-69, more reading-room facilities were provided for students. The lending of old periodicals from the Lending Libraries was introduced. 1,605 volumes were received as gifts from the Club Lusitano, the Hong Kong Centre of the Institute of Bankers, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the United States Information Services. Extension activities were strengthened during the year. Nine exhibitions and special displays of books were arranged in the Adult Lending Libraries and Reference Libraries at the City Hall and at Kowloon Branch. During the summer vacation, 'story-hours' were introduced at the City Hall and at Kowloon Junior Libraries. This was a form of library extension work for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years to introduce them to the library and as a means of encouraging them to read for themselves.<sup>25</sup>

The year 1969-70 saw some further improvement in the service offered by the Public Libraries at the City Hall and at Cambridge Court in Kowloon. All sections of the Libraries were opened one hour earlier in the morning starting from 1st March, 1970. During the year, 3,594 volumes were received as donations. More books were processed for public use. The City Hall Reference Library was strengthened by the addition of more than 300 annual reports, memorial issues and monographs received from various individuals, local institutions and firms.<sup>26</sup>

In 1970-71, the Urban Council Public Libraries were further expanded by the opening of a Study Room and a Branch Library. The Kowloon Park students' study room was opened on 9th November, 1970. The new Aberdeen/Pok Fu Lam Branch Library, located at Wah Fu Estate, Hong Kong was opened on 17th December, 1970. The library had two floors, with a total area of 12,000 sq. ft.. It provided lending service for adults and children, with a small reference collection and a newspaper and periodical section. A students' reading room of 60 seats were also provided.<sup>27</sup>

On 22nd November, 1971, the Yau Ma Tei Branch Library was set up. This library, measuring 17,300 sq. ft. in area, on the ground and mezzanine floors of the multi-storey car park at Shanghai Street, provided lending and reference services for both adults and children. It also had a newspaper and periodical section and a students' study room of 240 seats. Intended to be the main library for Kowloon, it has absorbed the bulk of the reference bookstock from the library at Cambridge Court, now re-named the Waterloo Road Branch Library.<sup>28</sup>

In 1972, the Ping Shek Branch Library with an area of 11,000 sq. ft. located on the first floor of Tsuen Shek House, Ping Shek Estate was established. This library provided a lending service for both adults and children with a separate students reading room of 144 seats, a small collection of newspapers and periodicals and a quick reference collection.<sup>29</sup>

It can be seen from 1961-72, the Urban Council Public Libraries continued to expand and develop.

Since the City Hall Library was opened, in ten years time, 349,193 people have registered as borrowers.<sup>30</sup> By 1971, the Urban Council Public Libraries possessed 343,829 stock, with 123,874 English books, 208,323 Chinese books.<sup>31</sup> In 1962, 191,596 books were borrowed during the year and by 1971, the total loans had increased to 1242,400. It showed that there was heavy demand for library services from the public. Up to this moment, there was no central public library in Hong Kong.

#### 4.4: The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association Libraries

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association continued to operate a number of libraries in its member clubs which were opened to children and youth between the age of eight and eighteen. As at 31st March, 1972, there was a total of twenty-two such libraries, big and small, with the number of registered readers ranging from 1,216 to 5,335 totalling 58,091 in all the libraries.<sup>32</sup> The followings were the libraries opened by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association during the period 1961-72.

- (a) Argyle Street Children's Library (1961)
- (b) Ma Tau Wai Children's Library (1962)
- (c) Victoria Park Children's Library (1961)
- (d) Fa Hui Library (1963)
- (e) Li Cheng Uk Library (1963)
- (f) Choi Hung Estate Road Library (1966)
- (g) Choi Hung Road Library (1964)
- (h) Kowloon Tsai Public Library (1967)
- (i) King George V Library (1967)
- (j) Kwun Lung Lau Library (1968)
- (k) Cheung Sha Wan Library (1968)

- (l) Lam Tin Library (1968)
- (m) Shek Lei Library (1969)
- (n) Sau Mau Ping Library (1969)
- (o) Tsz Wan Shan Library (1969)
- (p) Shaukiwan Library (1970)
- (q) Shek Yam Library (1970)
- (r) Lok Man Sun Chuen Library (1971)
- (s) Lei Muk Shue Public Library (1972)

#### 4.5: Social Welfare Department Libraries

The Social Welfare Department continued to open its social and community centre libraries . During 1961-72, 5 more libraries were established. They included:

- (a) Tsan Yuk Social Centre Library (1961)
- (b) Western District Community Centre Library (1962)
- (c) Sheung Shui Social Centre Library (1963)
- (d) Kwun Tong Community Centre Library (1963)
- (e) Tai Hang Tung Community Centre Library (1966)

The users of these libraries were mostly students, factory workers and local residents of the district. Besides, three vans visited schools, and different stations in the New Territories daily in order to provide library services to the remote areas.

These social and community centre libraries of the Social Welfare Department have nothing to do with the Urban Council Public Libraries. Usually, the librarian was the warden or an officer of the centre. For example, the warden of Tsan Yuk Social Centre supervised the library.

These libraries were operated by the Group and Community Work Division of the Social Welfare Department. The department was responsible for the provision of staff and the administration of the libraries. See also Chapter 5, pp 91-92.

#### 4.6: Adult Education and Recreation Centre Libraries

These libraries were sponsored by the Education Department. During 1961-72, two more libraries were opened. These libraries, fourteen in number by the end of 1971 were all located in the government primary schools. Readers came from all walks of life. Each library uses a classroom as a reading room and provides staff assistance.

These libraries are thus separately provided and administered.

#### 4.7: Caritas Centre Libraries

Caritas, the official Roman Catholic social service organisation, began providing public libraries in Hong Kong during the 1960s. During the 1960's, the Caritas Centre was very active in providing library services in Hong Kong. During 1961-1972, seven libraries were established. They were:

- (a) the Caritas Tsuen Wan Library (1962)
- (b) Kennedy Town Library (1964)
- (c) Caritas Caine Road Library (1968)
- (d) Aberdeen Library (1964)
- (e) Kowloon Library (1968)

(f) Caritas Ngau Tau Kok Library (1970)

(g) Tung Tau Tsuen Library (1970)

These Centre libraries, seven in number, served a body of 8,853 registered members with an average daily attendance of approximately 1,700 making use of the lending and reading facilities. The libraries also opened to the students of the Caritas courses or members of the Children and Youth Centres.

The total book stock has reached 42,652 volumes, of which almost two-third were Chinese books. In order to promote the use of library services, extension activities such as book exhibition, children's story telling, poster competitions and quiz programmes were organised throughout the year.

There is no connection between these libraries and the Urban Council's public libraries.

#### 4.8: The Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce Libraries

The Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce had been keen on the promotion of social welfare, especially for children. By 1970, it had established more than thirty libraries,<sup>33</sup> including mobile libraries for under-privileged children as well as libraries for the blind.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce considered its libraries as one of its greatest achievements in serving the poor children in Hong Kong.



Usually, the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce has donated several thousands volumes of books and a catalogue of all these items to an organisation or institution which was willing to house the library and took over the responsibility for its maintenance, staffing and administration thereafter.

#### 4.9: Libraries set up by cultural organisations

During 1960's, the library services provided by the cultural organisations continued to expand and develop. Among them were the libraries set up by the British Council, the United States Cultural Centre, the Goethe Institute, Alliance Française and the Japan Information and Cultural Office Library.

##### 4.9.1: Goethe Institute German Cultural Centre Library

This library was founded in 1962. Though it is opened to the public, it primarily serves students of secondary schools and universities especially serving the needs of the language students of the Institute and people interested in modern German literature. The book stock mainly contains German subjects which including German literature, German history, arts, science, children's books, language books and general information about Germany. There are also a number of books, periodicals and newspapers in Chinese and English. Audio-visual materials such as films, slides, phonorecords and tapes are available. Extension activities include filmshows, lectures, concerts and exhibitions.<sup>34</sup>

#### 4.9.2: Japan Information and Cultural Office Library

This library was established in 1968 for students. The book stock mainly contains Japanese studies, cultural history, the arts, economics and technology skills. In addition, Chinese and English books, periodicals and newspapers are available.<sup>35</sup>

#### 4.9.3: British Council Libraries

These continue to provide consultation and borrowing facilities to the general public, and to students above Form IV standard. The main subjects of the book stock are Commerce and Business Administration, English Language Teaching, Law, Library Science, Literature, Music and Art. English books, periodicals, newspapers are available. Audio-visual materials such as films, slides, phone-records, photographs and tapes are also provided for library use. Public lectures, displays and exhibitions are organised to promote the use of library services.<sup>36</sup>

#### 4.9.4: American Library

This library was formerly known as the USIS Library and the U.S. Cultural Centre Library until 1957. Managed by the U.S. Information Service and open to the public, the library provides consultation, borrowing and photocopying services. It has a comprehensive book stock with emphasis on American studies in the Social Sciences, History and Geography. The library has several hundred reels of microfilms, a separate motion-picture section with over a hundred video-tapes and video-cassettes. Extension activities include lectures, book displays and art exhibits.<sup>37</sup>

#### 4.9.5: Alliance Francaise Library

This library provides consultation and borrowing facilities. The main subject fields of the book stock are in literature, geography, sciences, art and history. Fiction occupies 25% of the book stock. Besides providing mainly French books, periodicals and newspapers, the library also provides Chinese periodicals, Chinese and English newspapers. Extension activities include displays, exhibitions and audio-visual programmes.<sup>38</sup>

#### 4.10. Special Public Libraries

##### 4.10.1: Baptist Library

This library was started in October 1966 and ran by the Social Welfare Section of the Hong Kong Baptist Association for the residents of Tsz Wan Shan. The library was very active in giving public lectures on religion and social welfare.<sup>39</sup>

##### 4.10.2: Sun Yat-sen Library (Kowloon)

This library was established in 1970 with donations of books from the Mencius Educational Foundation, the Chinese Cultural Association and other sources in Taiwan and overseas countries, to commemorate Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The book stock contains comprehensive collection of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's research materials and modern Chinese history.<sup>40</sup>

Only the Sun Yat-sen Library still exists. For the current situation regarding other voluntary public libraries see Chapter 5 pp 92-93

## REFERENCES

1. Public Library. In Old Hong Kong: a series of Articles to the South China Morning Post between 17th June, 1933 and 13th April, 1935 v.3 no.635
2. Hong Kong, Annual Departmental Report by the Chairman, Urban Council and Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong Government Press, 1960-61
3. Report of the Advisory Committee on Library Services: a survey of Public Library Services in Hong Kong with Recommendations for their Development. Hong Kong, 1963
4. Urban Council Annual Report, 1977-78. Hong Kong Government Press
5. Urban Council. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Library Service. Jan 1964
6. Ibid
7. Urban Council Annual Report, 1965-66. Hong Kong Government Press
8. Urban Council Annual Report, 1968-69. Hong Kong Government Press
9. Urban Council Annual Report, 1969-70. Hong Kong Government Press

10. Urban Council Annual Report, 1970-71. Hong Kong Government Press
11. Urban Council Annual Report, 1971-72. Hong Kong Government Press
12. Hong Kong, Annual Departmental Report by the chairman, Urban Council and Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong Government Press, 1960-61
13. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1961. Hong Kong Government Press
14. Ibid
15. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1962. Hong Kong Government Press
16. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1965. Hong Kong Government Press
17. Hong Kong, Annual Departmental Report by the chairman, Urban Council and Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong Government Press, 1962-63
18. Hong Kong, Annual Departmental Report by the chairman, Urban Council and Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong Government Press, 1963-64
19. Urban Council Annual Report, 1965. Hong Kong Government Press

20. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1965. Hong Kong Government Press
21. Urban Council Annual Report, 1966-67. Hong Kong Government Press
22. Urban Council Annual Report, 1967-68. Hong Kong Government Press
23. Ibid
24. Ibid
25. Urban Council Annual Report, 1968-69. Hong Kong Government Press
26. Urban Council Annual Report, 1969-70. Hong Kong Government Press
27. Urban Council Annual Report, 1970-71. Hong Kong Government Press
28. Urban Council Annual Report, 1971-72. Hong Kong Government Press
29. Urban Council Annual Report, 1972-73. Hong Kong Government Press
30. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1972&73. Hong Kong Government Press
31. Urban Council Annual Report, 1970-71. Hong Kong Government Press
32. Kan Lai Bing. The current library scene in Hong Kong, Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.2, Dec, 1971. pp 33-40

33. Ibid
34. Kan Lai Bing. Library services in Hong Kong; a new directory. Hong Kong Library Association, 1975
35. Ibid., 89-90
36. Ibid., 17
37. Ibid., 7-8
38. Ibid., 7
39. Ibid., 20
40. Ibid., 184-185

## CHAPTER 5: THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG PUBLIC LIBRARIES (1973-1989)

### 5.1: Introduction

From 1973 onwards, there has been a rapid expansion of public libraries in Hong Kong. Public libraries have grown and expanded their usefulness to all parts of the city and to people in all walks of life. With the rapid growth of the city, there has been an increasing demand on public library services. The promotion of library service has also aroused the general public to the potential value of public libraries.

In 1973, the Urban Council planned to develop and enlarge most of its libraries. It had adopted the Libraries Select Committee's 10-year expansion programme which called for a library of about 12,000 sq. ft. in every district of the city and eventually, a library of similar size for every 200,000 people. The Council also planned to house these libraries in suitable Government or Council buildings.<sup>1</sup>

As satellite towns developed in the New Territories, more public libraries were established to provide library services for the residents in them.

The seventies saw a considerable growth in the number of librarians employed. By 1980, there were well over one hundred professional librarians working in Hong Kong. Most of them were employed in the



larger library system. This was a remarkable rate of growth from the seven professional librarians who worked in only two of the libraries in 1960.<sup>2</sup>

Along with the tremendous increase in the number of libraries, the quality of services has been improved and there has been substantial progress in computerization. The libraries especially the Urban Council libraries have already begun to lay the foundations for the computerization of some of their services.

On the other hand, the development of public libraries by other voluntary agencies and organisations has continued. However, at the same time, a number of libraries have closed. The Social Welfare Department is no longer providing library services. The former libraries in the six community centres ceased to be public libraries and have been converted into study reading rooms, which formed an integral part of group work service in the community centres. The Caritas libraries are no longer open to the general public. They are only for the use of members of the Caritas Group & Community Work Service.

#### 5.2: Factors affecting the development of Public Libraries

There have been many factors affecting the rapid development of public libraries during 1973-1989.

- (1) Staff working in the libraries have opportunities to receive in-service training provided by the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in

cooperation with the Hong Kong Library Association. Most of them work in the larger library system in Hong Kong — the Urban Council Public Libraries. The professional training of librarians thus helps to increase the standard of library services and provide manpower for the libraries..

- (2) The Hong Kong Library Association which was established in 1958 helped to encourage the establishment of libraries, improve library services and efficiency. In addition, it has encouraged cooperation among all library workers and people interested in libraries in Hong Kong, and has provided education and training for librarianship. It also co-operated with other Library Association in improving the library services in Hong Kong. In fact, it can be said that to a large extent, the Hong Kong Library Association has contributed a large amount in promoting the development of library services.
- (3) The literacy rate has continued to grow. More and more people are receiving secondary education and even tertiary education. Schools are no longer seen as providing people with all the knowledge they want, they have to search for more knowledge to supplement their formal studies in libraries. Besides, the high standard and rapid development of the printing and publishing industries have provided more and better produced books in Hong Kong.

- (4) Hong Kong's export trade with other countries has continued to grow rapidly, the strong financial position thus enabling the development of library services.
- (5) Finally, the financial autonomy of the Urban Council and its plans has resulted in a rapid growth of public libraries in the urban areas.

### 5.3: Urban Council Public Libraries

The development of public libraries and services has grown rapidly in the urban area.

#### 5.3.1: The increasing number of public libraries

During 1973-89, more branch libraries including mobile libraries were opened. They were:

- (1) Kwun Tong Public Library (1975)
- (2) Aberdeen Public Library (1975)
- (3) A mobile library serving the Sham Shui Po District (1976)
- (4) Kowloon mobile library (1976)
- (5) Sham Shui Po Branch Library (1977)
- (6) Hong Kong Western District Mini Public Library (1977)
- (7) Mei Foo Sun Chuen Public Library (1978)
- (8) Wan Chai Public Library (1979)
- (9) Chai Wan Public Library (1979)
- (10) Hong Kong Mobile Library (1980)
- (11) North Point Public Library (1981)
- (12) Shun Lee Estate Public Library (1982)
- (13) Tai Koo Shing Public Library (1982)

- (14) Happy Valley Public Library (1982)
- (15) Kowloon Bay Public Library (1982)
- (16) Mong Kok Public Library (1983)
- (17) Kowloon Central Library
  - (Phase 1) (1984)
  - (Phase 2) (1985)
- (18) Lam Tin Public Library (1984)
- (19) Pak Tin Public Library (1984)
- (20) Wong Tai Sin Public Library (1984)
- (21) Sau Mau Ping Public Library (1985)
- (22) Lockhart Road Public Library (1986)
- (23) Lok Fu Public Library (1986)
- (24) Hong Ning Road Public Library (1984)
- (25) Ngau Chi Wan Public Library (1987)
- (26) Po On Road Public Library (1987)
- (27) Tai Kok Tsui Public Library (1987)
- (28) Tsz Wan Shan Public Library (1987)
- (29) Shui Wo Street Public Library (1988)
- (30) Quarry Bay Public Library (1988)
- (31) Kowloon City Public Library (1988)
- (32) Wong Tai Sin Public Library (1988)
- (33) Lung Ping Public Library (1989)
- (34) Fa Yuen Street Library (1989)

Though the number of libraries increased rapidly during this period, some of them were closed and replaced by other new libraries. For example, in 1978, the Aberdeen Public Library was closed and replaced by two mobile library which call at Wong Chuk Hang and Shek Pai Wan. The Kowloon Central Library replaced the Waterloo Road Library which was opened in 1965. The Lockhart Road Public Library replaced the Happy Valley and Wan Chai Public Libraries. The Ngau Chi Wan Library replaced the Ping Shek Library

while the Po On Road Library, Sham Shui Po district replaced the Sham Shui Po Library. The Shui Wo Street Library replaced the Hong Ning Road Public Library. The Quarry Bay Public Library replaced the Library in Tai Koo Shing. The Lung Ping Public Library and the Fa Yuen Street Library replaced the Wong Tai Sin and the Mong Kok Public Libraries.

#### 5.3.2: New development and innovation of library services

It is the Council's aim to provide free lending services of library materials, information on all subjects, informal education and intelligent recreation to the public. From 1973 onwards, there has been a great improvement in the provision of library services.

In order to provide better services, in 1973, reference facilities were made available to branch libraries which did not have reference sections by means of telephone links.<sup>3</sup> Previously, reference services were only available at the City Hall Library, Waterloo Branch Library and the Yau Ma Tei Branch Library. In the same year, a photo-copying service for research and private study was also started in the City Hall and Yau Ma Tei Reference Libraries.<sup>4</sup> This service has provided greater convenience for readers.

A gramophone record listening service was added to the City Hall Library in January, 1976. Starting from 1973, the Urban Council have planned to develop a gramophone record listening service for the public.

At the end of the year, the Library possessed 3,650 discs and 255 cassettes. In 1974 there were 3,955 discs and 255 cassettes. When the gramophone record service was started in 1976 at the City Hall Library, it offered 4,202 discs and 262 cassettes, mainly of western classical music to the public.<sup>5</sup> The Library also planned to increase its collection of Chinese records. The heavy use of this service has demonstrated its success. As a result, two more have been opened in the Yau Ma Tei and Kwun Tong Libraries in 1977.

Study rooms have been heavily used especially during examination time in the libraries. Thus the Council has planned to provide study rooms in every district or a scale of seating for 1% of the secondary school population in each district to meet the increasing demand.

During this period, library provision for children and young people has gained much attention. In 1976, at the request of the Urban Services Department, a committee on library provision for children and young people was set up to study existing library facilities for children and young people in the urban areas and to see what improvements were necessary to improve the present situation.<sup>6</sup>

The Urban Council libraries have 423,623 volumes of children's books, excluding pictorials, or approximately 0.53 books per child. As international standards called for a minimum of two books per child, the Committee thought that Hong Kong should aim at a standard of one book per child initially and ultimately reach international standards.

As there was a lack of a suitably comprehensive range of titles in Chinese and a low level of new titles put on the market each year, the Committee felt there was a need for closer cooperation between Hong Kong and overseas libraries which required children's books in Chinese. It was also felt that the range of suitable reading material could be expanded by specially commissioned translations in cooperation with foreign publishers and authors, and by encouraging indigenous writing. Thus, library provision for children and young people has continued to grow substantially.

In 1978, the Council decided that audio-visual material should form an integral part of the library collection and this development would be intensified. Therefore plans to increase substantially audio-visual library services and facilities were launched. In the late 1970s, audio-visual services were made available. These were located in the City Hall, Yau Ma Tei and Kwun Tong Libraries.

During 1978-79, in order to provide and improve the use of library services, a new service of postal lending and block loan to the disabled and the aged was introduced experimentally and would be more widely provided after the trial period.

In 1979, the Urban Council Public Libraries fulfilled their wishes by locating libraries in the Urban Council's own purpose-built premises instead of renting commercial buildings. The two libraries were the Chai Wan Library in the Chai Wan Market Building in 1979 and the North Point Library in the

Urban Council's market premises in 1981.<sup>7</sup>

In 1979, the City Hall Library was designated a United Nations Depository Library. To this purpose, printed and mimeographed documents of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were being received and processed as reference material, and were available at the library. This marked the recognition of the City Hall Library as a metropolitan library.

In 1979, to comply with the idea of providing reading materials to special groups of people, unservicable books and periodicals were sent to Vietnamese refugees camps, the Prison Department and to voluntary agencies.<sup>8</sup>

In 1980, a special loan service was started on an experimental basis for patients with spinal injuries in the Kowloon Hospital and a similar service would be introduced to other institutions for the disabled.<sup>9</sup>

In 1982, an audio-cassette lending scheme was introduced at the City Hall, and at Yau Ma Tei and Kwai Chung Public Libraries.

The Council also planned to develop a specialised Arts Library. During 1981-82, a phased acquisition of book stock was started for the Arts Library to be housed in the Tsim Sha Tsui Cultural Centre.<sup>10</sup> During 1983-84, the Arts Library was first opened in the Hong Kong Arts Centre for use. It will soon be replaced by a permanent and much larger facility when



the Tsim Sha Tsui Cultural Centre becomes ready for use.

An important development in upgrading the library service was to computerize the local libraries' network. From 1980 onwards, the Council has planned to computerize the libraries. A delegation was formed by the Urban Council to visit Canada and the United States to study automated library systems in North America. In 1987, a big step towards computerizing library system took place. The Council decided to re-examine the feasibility of computerizing the operation of the Council's libraries. A consulting firm was engaged in early 1988 to assist the Council in identifying suitable computerized library systems for the project.

To cope with the automation of library services, an important service was introduced in 1987. This was known as the Computer Literacy Project. This project was first introduced at the City Hall Public Library and the Kowloon Central Library. In 1987, the two libraries received 10 sets of microcomputers each from the IBM World Trade Corporation to promote computer literacy.<sup>11</sup> The Computer Literacy Project was aimed at arousing community interest in computers and was organised to build up a base of library patrons who could use computer software programmes. The equipment for the project was donated by IBM World Trade Corporation. In the first few months, since 500 library patrons took part in the project. They attended lectures and related activities organised to stimulate computer awareness. The computer lectures were designed with the assistance of the Hong Kong

Computer Society. These lectures enabled the participants to have the opportunities to use the 20 sets of IBM JX personal computers installed in the libraries.

The Council also planned to have computer software available for use by the general public in 1988. The aim was to keep pace with the the new developments in technology. In October 1989, both reference libraries at the City Hall and the Kowloon Central Library have installed microcomputer equipment for readers to search data-bases stored in digital computer discs, (CD-ROM). These compact-disk-read only memory (CD-ROM) materials were acquired to facilitate the retrieval of information in the reference library.

The Council also planned to set up a Central library in the urban area. During 1982-83, plans were launched in developing a new library in Pui Ching Road in Ho Man Tin as a central library. The official opening of this Kowloon Central Library in September 1985 marked a new stage in the provision of fast expanding library services. It is Hong Kong's first purpose built public library providing a full range of district library facilities as well as a comprehensive reference library, incorporating the Arts Library and Yau Ma Tei Reference Library. A central book stack is part of the building, to house a reserve collection to supplement the stock of the branch libraries in Kowloon.

On Hong Kong island, the City Hall Public Library was further expanded. In December 1985, an audio-visual library and an extension activities room were added to the City Hall Library. This project was

part of a phased programme to develop the City Hall High Block into a Central Library for Hong Kong Island. It is the first time the Urban Council has planned City Hall Library to become a central library on Hong Kong Island.

In 1987, a new service was introduced. The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club donated two reading machines capable of converting printed English into spoken words to the Kowloon Central Library and the City Hall Public Library. The donation enabled the Council to extend its library services to the blind and visually impaired patrons by allowing them to use English books from the two libraries.

The Council also tried to renovate its libraries to up-grade their standard. During 1986-87, improvement work in existing libraries was carried out. Besides renovating the City Hall Public Library, work also began in 1987 on refurbishing the Yau Ma Tei Public Library. After renovation, the library has better facilities with improved lighting and air-conditioning. In January 1989, the old mobile library van was replaced by a new mobile van in Kowloon. It has better air-conditioning and a power-operated lift for users confined to wheel-chairs. This is a new service provided by the Council for the benefit of disabled people.

In order to foster children's reading habits and to encourage them to use library facilities, the newly opened libraries have been provided with attractive corners designed and decorated to a specific theme such as a book castle, a garden and a railway station.

### 5.3.3: The expansion of extension activities

Extension activities were introduced to help to promote further use of the library resources. The Library Select Committee placed great emphasis on library extension activities for young people. During 1975-76, films, story-telling sessions, book exhibitions and organised group visits to libraries were introduced. In order to take active steps in encouraging the enjoyment of its service, during 1976-77, a book report competition for children was started and later an essay competition for adults was added to the programme.<sup>12</sup>

In 1978, the Council held a children's drama competition to stimulate interest in drama. In 1979-80, the Urban Council libraries continued to encourage people to take part in extension activities which could enrich their knowledge or merely provide enjoyment. Students, housewives, workers, young, old, educated and uneducated, may go to the libraries to watch informative films or slides, listen to talks by experts on Chinese musical instrument, Chinese classics, art, Chinese herbs, food nutrition, even astronomy; or they may join in such handicrafts as ribbon flowermaking, Chinese calligraphy, practical electronics, or even learn to play the guitar. The extension activities in the libraries also include clubs, where people may take part in drama, photography, art and design, or learn to play chess.

A new innovation in 1979 was a competition in Creative Chinese Writing. This was held to cultivate local talents in creative writing. Those winning

were awarded prizes. To make this event popular, a Chinese Literary Week was arranged with well-known scholars giving lectures and seminars on Chinese literary appreciation.

In 1983, a competition on creative writing in Chinese for adults was also carried out. In 1984, a new competition on creative writing in English was launched.

In order to promote better produced books, a competition on the Best Produced Books in Hong Kong was started in 1983. The 20 best produced books would be on display in the libraries.

In 1984, the libraries placed great emphasis on reading and writing. In July 1984, a Library Week Exhibition in the City Hall was held. A reading programme was also launched to encourage and promote reading. The Council continued to promote the appreciation of Chinese Literature, a Chinese Literary Week was presented in 1984 and the theme focused on the appreciation of Chinese prose by overseas Chinese masters. The Council also supported the publication of children's books; eight picture books and a story book were published during the year. They were all award-winning entries of the 1984 competition on creative writing in Chinese for children. More large-scale activities were organised in conjunction with other organisations. In 1985, a poster art exhibition was presented jointly with the British Council at the Kowloon Central Library. The exhibits featured some 40 posters from Britain produced in the past 100 years. The second exhibition,

on the Gutenberg Printing Press, was jointly presented with the Goethe Institute at the Kowloon Central Library. The exhibition, included a replica of the historic Gutenberg Bible, 50 framed photographs and 11 rare books from the Gutenberg Museum of Mainz. In order to celebrate the opening ceremony of children's month in June 1987, a fun fair, a photographic competition, workshops, talks and exhibitions took place at various libraries, schools and civic centres.

In 1988, the Council started a new extension activity. In order to help young people to plan well for their future career, career talks were jointly organised by the Council and the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. In 1988, twenty-four career talks were organised in eight Council libraries.

The Reading Programme of the libraries, launched in 1984, was re-organised to include new activities to encourage participation. In 1989, a recommended reading competition was held for programme members. The eight top prizewinners were awarded a tour to Singapore in July to visit culture and educational facilities and exchange reading experience with young people there.

The competition for the Best Produced Books in Hong Kong is now organised jointly with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to give recognition to the high standards of books printed and published in Hong Kong. Twenty winning entries were exhibited at the Frankfurt Book Fair in West Germany in October and the World Print Pack Exhibition and Conference at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in December.

In response to popular feedback and community needs, a year-round monthly programme of literary talks was organised to replace the annual Chinese Literary Week. The programme for 1989 was launched in August with a two-day seminar on the theme of The Development and Appreciation of Contemporary Chinese Poetry. The monthly weekend talks on various literary forms and topics of general interest were held at the City Hall Public Library.

The Urban Council continued to carry out library extension activities for the public. Regular events included book exhibitions, interest clubs, subject talks, children's hours and library visits attracted more and more people during the year.

#### 5.3.4: The growth of library stock and registered borrowers

There has been a healthy growth in the materials provided and used. The range of library materials provided for people of various age groups, backgrounds and interests have included books, newspapers, periodicals, gramophone records, audio cassettes, video cassettes, slides and microfilm. Some of the materials have been for home use, others for use in the libraries and the rest in connection with library extension activities designed to promote the use of various library facilities.

As at 31st March, 1973, the Urban Council Public Libraries possessed 487,401 books, 2,765 reels of microfilm, 3,628 discs and 253 cassettes.<sup>13</sup> By 1984, the library materials have increased to 1409,991 items

which included 327,094 books, 5,225 gramophone records, 7,180 audio cassettes, 571 video cassettes, 61 slide-sets and 80 reels of microfilms.<sup>14</sup> During these twelve years, the library stock has increased by 915,944 items.

In 1989, the library collection was further increased to 2.2 million items. This included 2,103,774 books and 99,499 items of audio-visual materials.<sup>15</sup> Within five years, the library stock has increased by nearly 100,000 items.

In the Newspapers and Periodicals section, there has also been a great increase in the number of newspapers and periodicals provided. As at 31st March, 1973, 946 newspapers and periodicals were regularly received at this section.<sup>16</sup> In March 1989, the libraries subscribed to 4,107 local and overseas newspapers and periodicals.<sup>17</sup> The stock has increased by nearly 4.5 times after 16 years.

The number of registered borrowers has increased largely. More and more people make use of the public libraries facilities. It has been estimated that in March 1973, 363,634 people have registered as borrowers.<sup>18</sup> As at 31st March, 1989, there were altogether 1,557,564 people registered as borrowers of the Urban Council Public Libraries.<sup>19</sup> During these sixteen years, the number of borrowers has increased by 1,293,930.



In the near future, the libraries will continue to increase the book stock in order to meet the increasing demand of the public and given the rate of progress being maintained, international standards recommendations should soon be reached or even surpassed.

5.3.5: The increased usage of library facilities

The library facilities have been heavily used by the public. The following tables (1 and 2) give statistics on usage of library facilities for June 1979 and June 1989.

Table 1 USAGE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES- JUNE, 1979

Urban Council Public Libraries		City Hall	Waterloo Road	Pok Fu Lam	Yau Ma Tei	Ping Shek	Kwun Tong	Kowloon Mobile Library	Western	Sham Shui Po	H.K. Mobile Lib.	Mei Foo Sun Chuen*	Wan Chai **	Chai Wan ***	Total
i)	No. of books issued (excluding periodicals)	53,880 17.02%	43,301 13.68%	15,807 5.00%	37,084 11.71%	27,420 8.66%	23,558 7.44%	8,874 2.80%	9,699 3.06%	25,503 8.05%	3,854 1.22%	22,170 7.00%	28,765 9.04%	16,699 5.27%	316,614 100%
ii)	No. of reference books used	19,284 71.82%	-	-	7,567 28.18%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,851 100%
iii)	No. of reference enquiries	2,241 52.51%	331 7.76%	30 0.70%	1,279 29.97%	49 1.15%	93 2.18%	24 0.56%	89 2.09%	16 0.37%	14 0.33%	46 1.08%	42 0.98%	14 0.33%	4,268 100%
iv)	No. of requests for newspapers and periodicals	2,299 47.87%	155 3.23%	90 1.87%	1,790 37.27%	163 3.39%	69 1.44%	-	-	118 2.46%	-	52 1.08%	61 1.27%	6 0.12%	4,803 100%
v)	No. of back issues of newspapers and periodicals supplied on request	18,057 66.06%	432 1.58%	126 0.46%	7,329 26.81%	281 1.03%	307 1.12%	-	-	552 2.02%	-	66 0.24%	177 0.65%	6 0.02%	27,333 100%
vi)	No. of books read in the lending libraries (excluding periodicals)	43,685 16.12%	26,472 9.77%	25,893 9.56%	39,247 14.49%	11,126 4.11%	21,753 8.03%	18,629 6.83%	12,257 4.52%	13,359 4.93%	5,251 1.94%	11,122 4.11%	13,122 4.84%	29,016 10.71%	270,932 100%
vii)	No. of new readers registered	872 18.89%	664 14.38%	119 2.58%	488 10.57%	230 4.98%	258 5.59%	121 2.62%	90 1.95%	326 7.06%	67 1.45%	252 5.46%	506 10.96%	624 13.52%	4,617 100%
viii)	Gramophone Record Listening Library	608 25.48%	-	-	804 33.70%	-	974 40.82%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,386 100%
ix)	Video Cassette Library+ No. of viewers	-	-	-	1,975 100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,975 100%
x)	No. of reels of microfilm used	29 100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29 100%

Table 2 USAGE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES- JUNE, 1989

Particulars 詳情 Libraries 圖書館	No. of library material issued 借出之館藏資料數目	No. of reference books used 借閱之參考書數目	No. of reference enquiries 參考資料查詢數目	No. of requests for newspapers and periodicals 借閱之報紙及定期刊 物數目	No. of back issues of newspapers and periodicals supplied on request 借閱之過期報紙及定 期刊物次數	No. of books read in the lending libraries 在借閱圖書館內閱讀 之書本數目	No. of new readers registered 新登記之讀者數目	No. of audience/ viewers in audio- visual libraries 使用視聽資料室人數	No. of reels of microfilm used 借閱之微縮膠片數目
Aberdeen 香港仔	27,474 4.08%	-	546 1.29%	88 1.05%	479 0.91%	65,488 4.98%	167 2.97%	1,235 9.22%	-
Chai Wan 柴灣	15,722 2.33%	-	132 0.31%	61 0.73%	235 0.45%	29,348 2.23%	89 1.58%	-	-
City Hall 大會堂	42,293 6.28%	2,888 9.88%	31,118 73.28%	3,760 45.22%	26,290 49.98%	101,213 7.70%	514 9.13%	1,010 7.54%	214 87.70%
H.K. Mobile 港島流動圖書館	6,346 0.94%	96 0.33%	284 0.67%	-	-	6,817 0.52%	47 0.84%	-	-
Kowloon Bay 九龍灣	16,411 2.44%	-	-	52 0.63%	114 0.22%	41,028 3.12%	156 2.77%	-	-
Kowloon Central 九龍中央	40,867 6.07%	23,428 80.16%	1,809 4.26%	1,595 19.18%	15,641 29.74%	60,516 4.60%	361 6.42%	1,957 14.60%	30 12.30%
Kowloon City 九龍城	14,248 2.12%	778 2.66%	662 1.56%	22 0.26%	64 0.12%	29,040 2.21%	98 1.74%	-	-
Kln Mobile 九龍區流動圖書館	5,858 0.87%	-	36 0.08%	-	-	8,806 0.67%	76 1.35%	-	-
Kwun Tong 觀塘	20,647 3.07%	-	154 0.36%	132 1.59%	462 0.88%	45,424 3.30%	81 1.44%	387 2.89%	-
Lam Tin 藍田	8,248 1.22%	6 0.02%	142 0.33%	-	-	14,021 1.07%	35 0.62%	-	-
Lockhart Road 結克道	38,794 5.76%	-	498 1.17%	355 4.27%	1,436 2.72%	55,359 4.21%	282 5.01%	1,089 8.13%	-
Lok Fu 樂富	11,922 1.77%	-	226 0.53%	-	-	26,228 1.99%	104 1.85%	-	-
Mei Foo Sun Chuen 美富新邨	27,752 4.12%	2,031 6.95%	647 1.52%	553 6.65%	1,060 2.01%	57,017 4.34%	196 3.48%	-	-
Fa Yuen st. 花園街	44,478 6.60%	-	618 1.46%	91 1.09%	341 0.65%	101,120 7.69%	858 15.25%	1,147 8.56%	-
Ngau Chi Wan 牛池灣	36,565 5.43%	-	1,009 2.38%	316 3.80%	1,415 2.69%	79,308 6.03%	203 3.61%	879 6.56%	-

Cont'd Table 2 USAGE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES- JUNE, 1989

Particulars ATIA 圖書館 圖書館	No. of library material issued 借出之館藏資料數目	No. of reference books used 借閱之參考圖書數目	No. of reference enquiries 參考資料查詢數目	No. of requests for newspapers and periodicals 借閱之報紙及定期刊 物數目	No. of back issues of newspapers and periodicals supplied on request 借閱之過期報紙及定 期刊物數目	No. of books read in the lending libraries 在借閱圖書館內閱讀 之圖書數目	No. of new readers registered 新登記之讀者數目	No. of audience/ viewers in audio- visual libraries 使用視聽資料室人士數目	No. of reels of microfilm used 借閱之35mm膠卷數目
North Point 北角	26,891 3.99%	-	407 0.96%	128 1.54%	580 1.10%	43,418 3.30%	127 2.26%	-	-
Pak Tin 白田	10,277 1.53%	-	71 0.17%	-	-	30,381 2.31%	59 1.05%	-	-
Pok Fu Lam 佛蘭村	14,865 2.21%	-	255 0.60%	185 2.23%	458 0.87%	25,007 1.90%	43 0.76%	-	-
Po On Road 保安道	35,087 5.21%	-	623 1.47%	285 3.43%	1,341 2.55%	97,699 7.43%	283 5.03%	2,091 15.60%	-
Quarry Bay 鯉魚涌	40,934 6.08%	-	713 1.68%	54 0.65%	236 0.47%	56,937 4.33%	354 6.29%	634 4.23%	-
Sau Mau Ping 秀茂坪	9,422 1.40%	-	286 0.67%	35 0.42%	57 0.11%	14,133 1.07%	53 0.94%	-	-
Shui Wo Street 瑞和街	35,710 5.30%	-	362 0.85%	185 2.23%	618 1.17%	63,133 4.80%	308 5.47%	811 6.05%	-
Shun Lee Estate 順利邨	13,272 1.97%	-	157 0.37%	-	-	33,180 2.52%	82 1.46%	-	-
Tai Kok Kui 大角咀	11,617 1.73%	-	272 0.64%	-	-	25,557 1.94%	133 2.36%	-	-
To Kwa Wan 土瓜灣	35,802 5.32%	-	450 1.06%	118 1.42%	415 0.79%	55,590 4.23%	230 4.09%	1,000 7.46%	-
Tsz Wan Shan 慈雲山	11,708 1.74%	-	134 0.32%	30 0.36%	157 0.30%	13,883 1.06%	59 1.05%	-	-
Western District 西區	15,032 2.23%	-	155 0.36%	-	-	22,548 1.71%	122 2.17%	-	-
Lung Hing 龍興	19,246 2.86%	-	253 0.60%	19 0.23%	-	35,788 2.72%	158 2.81%	-	-
Yau Ma Tei 油麻地	35,858 5.33%	-	448 1.05%	250 3.01%	1,202 2.29%	79,235 6.02%	349 6.20%	1,161 8.66%	-
Total 總計	673,346 100%	29,227 100%	42,467 100%	8,314 100%	52,601 100%	1,315,222 100%	5,627 100%	13,401 100%	244 100%

By looking at the tables, it can be seen that there has been a great increase in the usage of library facilities within the recent decade.

The number of library materials issued has doubled in comparison with the same period 10 years ago. In 1979, the total number of library materials issued was 316,614. In 1989, the number of library materials issued has increased to 673,346. It shows an increase of 356,734.

Reference service becomes more and more important in the public libraries. It is heavily used especially by students and research workers. Science and technology are the most popular subjects consulted while books on philosophy and religion are read least. In 1979, the number of reference enquires was 4,268. In 1989, the number of enquires was amounted to 42,467. The number of reference enquires has increased by approximately ten times in comparison with the same period ten years ago.

In 1979, 270,932 books were read in the Lending Libraries. In 1989, 1,315,222 books were read. It showed an increase of 1,044,290, approximately 5 times when compared with the same period ten years ago.

4,361 readers used the audio-visual libraries in 1979. In 1989 the number of audience/viewers in audio-visual libraries has increased to 13,401. There has been a total increase of 9,041, tripling in size in comparison with ten years ago.

The number of reels of microfilm used in 1979

was 29, however, in 1989, the number increased to 244, an increase of 8 times in comparison.

From this, it can be seen that with the growth of branch libraries and library stock, more and more people are making use of the library facilities.

#### 5.4: Regional Council Public Libraries

The Urban Council plays an active role in establishing public libraries in the urban areas. On the other hand, library services for the residents of the New Territories began to gain much attention as more and more people have been moving to live in the New Territories. The Tsuen Wan Public Library, the first public library to be set up in the New Territories by the Urban Services Department was opened in March 1974. This library comprised an Adult Lending Library, Junior Library, Newspaper/Periodicals Section, Quick Reference Section and a student's study room of 84 seats. In 1975, proposals for establishing more libraries in the New Territories were under consideration. In 1977, the Cheung Chau Public Library, the Tai Po Public Library and the Shatin Public Library were established in the New Territories. In 1978, the New Territories public library system was separated from the Urban Council. The Cultural Services Department took on the responsibility of providing public library services in the New Territories. In 1985, as a result of departmental reorganisation, the Cultural Services Department ceased to exist. From April, 1985, the New Territories public libraries came under the newly formed Regional Services Department which later

changed its name to Regional Council in April, 1986.

#### 5.4.1: Background information on Regional Council

The Regional Council, established on April 1, 1986, is the statutory municipal authority for the area outside the jurisdiction of the Urban Council comprising the new towns of Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung, Shatin, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Fanling, Sheung Shui and Yuen Long and their hinterlands, together with the rural areas of Sai Kung and the islands. Like the Urban Council, the Regional Council is responsible for all matters concerning environmental hygiene, public health, sanitation, liquor licensing and the provision of recreation and cultural facilities and services within its jurisdiction. The Regional Council is financially autonomous. It is financed by income from fees, charges and rates collected in the Regional Council area where 1.8 million people lived.

The Regional Council provides recreational and sports facilities in the non-urban areas, while the Regional Services Department, as the Council's executive arm, is responsible for the planning and management of the facilities. The Council manages 311 hectares of open space and amenity plots.<sup>20</sup>

#### 5.4.2: Development of libraries in the New Territories

From 1973-1984, a number of public libraries were set up in the New Territories. They were:

- (1) Tsuen Wan Public Library (1974)
- (2) Cheung Chau Public Library (1977)
- (3) Tai Po Public Library (1977)
- (4) Shatin Public Library (1977)
- (5) Tuen Mun (Tai Hing) Public Library (1978)
- (6) Tai O Public Library (1980)
- (7) First Mobile Library (1981)
- (8) Sheung Shui Public Library (1982)
- (9) South Lamma Public Library (1982)
- (10) Tuen Mun (Yau Oi) Public Library (1983)
- (11) Peng Chau Public Library (1983)
- (12) South Kwai Chung Public Library (1984)
- (13) North Kwai Chung Public Library (1984)
- (14) Mui Wo Public Library (1984)
- (15) Yuen Long Public Library (1984)

Each public library has an Assistant Librarian in charge of it. The libraries open six days a week and close on Thursdays or Mondays. Some libraries on outlying islands open only two days in a week. For example, the South Lamma Public Library opens on Tuesday and Friday only.

The libraries provide reference and borrowing service, local and inter-national inter-library loan service; newspaper and periodical service; music listening and audio-cassette lending services. The book stock of each library is comprehensive except law and medicine. Fiction comprises 25% of the total book stock. Every library possesses a certain volume of Chinese and English books, a number of English and Chinese periodicals and newspapers. Audio-visual materials are also available for use by the public.



Extension activities include public lectures, displays and exhibitions, audio-visual programmes; mini cultural presentations; interest groups; children's sessions; games; children's library week and competitions.

Starting from April, 1985, the New Territories public libraries came under the Regional Services Department which later changed its name to Regional Council in April, 1986. From 1985-89, the Council has established the following libraries in the New Territories. They were:

- (1) Second Mobile Library (1985)
- (2) Fanling Public Library (1985)
- (3) Tsing Yi Public Library (1986)
- (4) Butterfly Estate Public Library (1986)
- (5) Shek Wai Kok Public Library (1986)
- (6) Shatin Central Library (1987)
- (7) Tuen Mun Central Library (1989)
- (8) North Lamma Public Library (1989)

The Regional Council libraries are opened to all residents and borrowers tickets may be used at any Regional Council public library. It is the Council's aim to provide free lending services of library materials, information on all subjects, informal education and intelligent recreation to the public. The Council also aims at providing 0.7 library material per capita by 1990/91 and 1 item of library material by 1997/98.

Apart from lending books, extension activities in the form of book exhibitions, story hours, film shows, hi-fi concerts, interest clubs, subject talks

and library visits are organised throughout the year for readers of various age groups, to publicise the library bookstore and to encourage use of the library facilities.

5.4.3: The development and innovation of library services and facilities by the Regional Council

(a) Library Stock

Up to 1987, the Regional Council libraries had a total book stock of more than one million volumes. Standard works of literature, science, reference as well as books of literary or artistic merits, importance in current affairs and information value were acquired by the libraries. In 1988, the book stock increased to 1.17 million items.<sup>21</sup> The library stock was further increased to 1.2 million items as at 31st March, 1989.<sup>22</sup> The total number of book stock was 1,186,486 and the number of audio-visual materials amounted to 69,620.<sup>23</sup>

The reference library of the Shatin Central Library also houses special collection sections which are valuable sources for research on the socio-economic and cultural conditions of Hong Kong, particularly of the Regional Council area. The special collection was further enriched in November 1987 by the donation of some 1,000 books by descendants of the late Mr Yung Sze-chiu, a village scholar. This collection includes 995 volumes of traditionally bound Chinese books, and 552 manuscripts, on literature, Chinese medicine, geomancy, horoscope, letters, accounts books and deeds. They are all useful information on every aspect of life and culture of early Hong Kong and of Sai Kung during the last century.<sup>24</sup>

(b) New Services

(1) The Regional Council's libraries established a block loan service to schools and societies, such as the penal institutions which are too remote from public libraries or unsuitable to be reached by mobile libraries. Whole sets of related books or required subjects were lent to schools or societies for special project work in these areas.

(2) Reservation of books/tapes has been introduced. Books or tapes which are not immediately available on the shelves may be reserved at the counter for a small fee. The readers are notified by the library once the requested book or tape is available.

(3) Reader's suggestions for library purchase has also been introduced. This innovation helps to improve the library services. Readers are welcome to suggest books, periodicals and audio-visual materials for library purchase. A reader fills in a suggestion form and the library will consider purchasing it or obtaining it from other libraries in the network.

(c) Study Rooms

In support of the Education Department Students' Study Room Scheme, study rooms are provided in public libraries at Tsuen Wan, North Kwai Chung, South Kwai Chung, Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Shatin Central Library. These facilities have proved highly popular with students, especially during examination periods. In order to meet the increasing demand, study rooms will also be provided at other central libraries and district libraries as they are planned. To meet the needs of students preparing for examinations, the

opening hours of these study rooms during examination periods were extended from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., seven days a week including general holidays and the normal library closing days during 1987-88.<sup>25</sup> During 1988-89, the opening hours of each study room were further extended from 7:30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m..<sup>26</sup>

(d) Extension Activities

To promote the services of libraries, extension activities in the form of competitions, book exhibitions, subject talks, story hours and group library visits have been organised throughout the year for people of various age groups, backgrounds and interests.

A Bookmark Design Competition was organised in June 1987 which was opened to all registered members of the Council's public libraries. The competition was well received and designs of winning entries have been used as bookmarks for free distribution to schools and visitors to publicise the many services available in Council libraries.<sup>27</sup>

During 1988-89, the Council also organised a territory-wide poster design competition to publicise the importance of taking good care of library books. The designs of the winning entries were subsequently reproduced and printed as posters for displaying at all libraries and for free distribution to schools and organisations.<sup>28</sup>

Following the donation of microcomputers and software by IBM World Trade Corporation, a computer literacy project in the form of lectures and interest clubs was launched at the Shatin Central Library and

North Kwai Chung Public Library in February 1988. This project helps to stimulate public interest in computers and enables them to use computer software programmes. As there was overwhelming response, the Council decided to provide more computer lectures and interest clubs at the libraries.<sup>29</sup>

(e) Shatin Central Library

In February, 1987 the Shatin Central Library was opened. It is a three-storey building near the new Shatin Town Park and Town Hall. This library is the first central library in the Regional Council area. When the library was opened, it had an initial stock of 300,000 volumes of adult and junior books in Chinese and English.<sup>30</sup> The Junior Library and the Extension Activities Room are on the podium. The Adult Library and Reference Library are on the first floor, the Audio-visual Library, Newspapers and Periodicals Section, Students' Study Room are on the ground floor.

The Audio-visual Library contains six listening booths and six video viewing booths. It has more than 12,000 items of audio-visual materials. The Newspapers and Periodicals Section has more than 500 major newspapers and periodicals in Chinese and English. The Reference Library is divided into open shelves and close-stack sections with 30,000 volumes on various subjects.<sup>31</sup> The Extension Activities Room is sound-proofed and well equipped with slide and film projectors, an overhead projector, hi-fi equipment, a television set, a video cassette player and a piano to support extension activities so organised.

(f) Tuen Mun Central Library

In March 1989, the Council's second central library located in Tuen Mun Town Centre was opened. This central library is a four-storey free standing building in the town's cultural complex. The library provides an initial stock of 220,000 English and Chinese books and a comprehensive range of library facilities and reference services for residents of Tuen Mun and the surrounding districts. Like the first central library, its facilities also include a Junior Library, an Adult Library, a Reference Library, an Audio-visual Library, a Newspapers and Periodicals Section, a Students' Study Room and an Extension Activities Room.

The Reference Library has an initial stock of 30,000 volumes of books together with 1,500 items of microforms. The Newspapers and Periodicals Section subscribes to more than 500 titles of local and overseas newspapers and periodicals. The Audio-visual Library contains 4,500 items of audio-visual materials for listening and viewing purposes.<sup>32</sup>

(g) Mobile Libraries

The mobile libraries of the Regional Council served 25 stops throughout the area on the mainland during 1986-87, providing books and audio cassettes lending, and information services. These two air conditioned library coaches each carried about 4,000 volumes of adult and children's books and audio cassettes. During 1987-88, the two mobile libraries of the Regional Council increased one more stop, making the total of 26 stops throughout the area on the mainland. They regularly visit remote areas and

villages to serve their people. A third mobile library is being constructed to serve the remote areas of Ta Kwu Ling and Sha Tau Kok.

5.5: Libraries run by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association

From 1973-1989, there were altogether eighteen libraries established by the Association. They were:

- (1) Kwai Fong Library (1973)
- (2) Shek Pai Wan Library (1973)
- (3) Ko Chiu Road Library (1973)
- (4) Mei Foo Library (1973)
- (5) Wong Chuk Hang Library (1973)
- (6) Pak Tin Library (1974)
- (7) Homantin Library (1974)
- (8) Yau Tong Library (1974)
- (9) Lam Tin 2nd Library (1974)
- (10) Lai Tak Library (1975)
- (11) Oi Man Library (1976)
- (12) Tai Kok Tsui Library (1976)
- (13) Tsz Wan Shan 2nd Library (1975)
- (14) Cheung Ching Library (1978)
- (15) Kwai Shing Library (1978)
- (16) Lai King Library (1978)
- (17) Shun Lee Library (1985)
- (18) Po Lam Library (1988)

Up to 1989, the Association operated 37 libraries throughout Hong Kong. The libraries continue to provide reference and borrowing services for children. The libraries provide children's books, periodicals, newspapers and reference books for readers. Other facilities include toy and story telling corners for the young and study room facilities.

The libraries also increase extension activities which include learning skills training, homework guidance, interest and socializing groups, cultural activities reading award schemes, book exhibitions, volunteer training, community services, parents' groups, family life education programmes and personal guidance. The Association also has its own publication to improve the library services. They include Chinese and English Classification Lists, Library Directory/Statistics, Annual Reports, Readers' Newsletters and Children's Bulletin.

The Association continues to play an important part in providing library service for children in Hong Kong.

#### 5.6: Adult Education and Recreation Centre Libraries

There are altogether nineteen Centre Libraries. These libraries continue to serve adult readers. Most of the registered adult are factory workers, hawkers, shopkeepers, housewives etc. Fiction comprises 90% of the total book stock. The majority of them are Chinese books. Periodicals and newspapers are also available.

#### 5.7: Libraries set up by the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Wah Fu Community Centre Library and the Salvation Army Tai Wo Hau Children and Youth Centre Library are both Children's Libraries. They were opened in 1978 and 1981 for children and youth between 8-25 years old. The libraries provide English and Chinese books, reference books, periodicals



and newspapers for the members. Extension activities include competitions, youth readers' club, displays and exhibitions, training camps for Form 5 to 7 students and movie entertainment nights.<sup>33</sup> These libraries continue to provide library services for the young.

#### 5.8: Special Public Libraries

##### 5.8.1: Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service. Pak Tin Children & Youth Centre Study & Reading Room

This children's library was opened in 1981 and attached to the Children and Youth Centre. It also serves as a study and reading room for the Centre's members between 6 to 24 years old. The library provides reference service only. Chinese and English books and periodicals are available. Extension activities such as interest groups, debate, volunteer training are organised for children and youth throughout the year.<sup>34</sup>

##### 5.8.2: Hong Kong PHAB ( Physical Handicapped Able Body) Association. Lam Tin PHAB Centre

This library was opened on February 22, 1980. It was donated by the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and Hong Kong Trustee Ltd's Gregory Memorial Fund. It mainly serves physically handicapped residents of Lam Tin Estate and neighbouring areas. The library provides reference and borrowing services. A home-delivery library service is offered to the physically handicapped. The library stock is comprehensive and fiction occupies 10% of the stock.<sup>35</sup> This library continues to give library service for the handicapped.

### 5.8.3: St. James' Settlement Library & Study Centre

This is a voluntary agency library established in April 1974 for the general public. The library provides reference and borrowing services. Adult's and Children's books on all subject fields are available for use. The library also has a number of audio-visual materials. Extension activities include displays, exhibitions, audio-visual programmes, readers' clubs and talks on special topics.<sup>36</sup> This library continues to provide its service.

## 5.9: Libraries set up by cultural organisations

### 5.9.1: American Library

The library continues to provide current information on all aspects of the United States. The stock is comprehensive with emphasis on United States government and politics, business, economics society and education. The stock of the library has increased by about 50% in the past 10 years. Besides providing English books, pamphlets, periodicals and newspapers, a few hundred Chinese books are also available. The library has a thousand reels of microfilm, over 50,000 sheets of microfiche which include the New York Times, telephone directories of major United States cities, index to U.S. government publications and U.S. congressional publication.

Extension activities include public lectures, displays and exhibitions and audio-visual programmes.<sup>37</sup>

#### 5.9.2: British Council Library

The library is open to British Council students and the public. It offers information on Britain and English studies and is especially known for its collection of books and materials on English Language teaching. The stock is comprehensive with English Language teaching as the main subject field. English books, periodicals, newspapers, microfilms and audio-visual materials are provided by the library. Over 10,000 people have been registered as borrowers.<sup>38</sup>

#### 5.9.3: Goethe Institut German Cultural Centre Library

The library continues to provide library service to the public. It especially serves the needs of the language students of the Institut and people interested in modern German literature. Subjects include German literature, German history, arts, science, children's books, language books and general information about Germany. A few hundred volumes of English books are also provided.<sup>39</sup>

#### 5.9.4: Japan Information and Cultural Office Library

The library provides reference and borrowing services to the public. Local inter-library loan service is also available. The stock specializes in Japanese studies, cultural history and the arts. Books in English and Japanese, periodicals, newspapers, some filmstrips, slides, videotapes are provided.<sup>40</sup>

5.10: The importance of library services provided  
by voluntary agencies

During 1973-1989, the development of library services to the community are mainly provided under the aegis of the Urban Council in the urban area and the Regional Council in the New Territories. Other organisations have gradually lessened their role in providing library services. As their libraries lost significance in the community, many of the privately run small libraries have been closed down. However, some of them survive.

In October 1980, the voluntary sector was informed by SWD (Social Welfare Department) that the Urban Council had indicated that " With the growth in the number of public libraries today and the projected balanced development of public libraries in both the urban areas and the New Territories, this department feels that there is no longer need for SWD to continue to plan or subvent agencies to provide rudimentary form of library service." <sup>41</sup>

However, the voluntary agencies found there was the need for neighbourhood libraries to be provided and be attached to children and youth centres. It can be seen that many of the libraries run by voluntary agencies are situated at or very near to public housing estates, parks or playgrounds. Unlike the Urban Council public libraries, the majority of the libraries run by voluntary agencies serve the age group of 6-25. Their libraries are a part of the services attached to children and youth centres which are provided with a planning ratio of 1 to every 20,000 population. They

do not confine their activities to the conventional function of lending service only but rather organise activities geared to the needs of readers. They are a means to provide an opportunity for promoting reading interest and facilitating quiet study, and to offer an experience for constructive use of leisure.<sup>42</sup>

In fact, there is the need for neighbourhood libraries in Hong Kong. As the "Position Paper on Library Service" stated:<sup>43</sup>

(1) The UC's (Urban Council) standard of 1 public library for every 200,000 population will in no way be able to reach all pockets of the population in the district it intends to serve.

(2) VA-run (Voluntary Agency) libraries which penetrate the smallest neighbourhood are based on the Housing Department's 20,000 population planning unit for the provision of self-contained services.

(3) These libraries, attached to children and youth centres are therefore located at the focal point which young people frequent and are within walking distance of the homes of the readers and parents feel safe in letting their children use them.

(4) VA-run libraries as basic welfare provision in the public housing estates, are more economically viable to operate. They are comparatively small compared with the UC libraries. The rental in public housing estate is cheaper and the supervision and management is more convenient as the library staff is part of the team of the children and youth centre.

(5) A comparison of function between the UC and VA operated libraries shows each contributing towards the development of our young people but with a different emphasis. The UC libraries have a professional approach in accordance with the international library standards while the VA-run libraries are more "people-oriented", offering personal services aimed at enhancing readers' growth and development. According to the 1978 edition of Everyman's Encyclopaedia, a public library "recognises all readers increasingly need resource centre provision rather than books and periodicals alone".

It is clear that neighbourhood libraries are important to the children and youth. Both Urban Council libraries and Voluntary Agency-run libraries are vital in the society. There is no contradiction between them as the "Position Paper on Library Service" has reasonably stated:<sup>44</sup>

(1) The UC and VA run libraries are operating with profound objectives and contributing to the development of our young people.

(2) The two bodies have developed differing ratios and serve differing needs. The existence of neighbourhood libraries will enable readers to acquire a reading habit at a young age, and which will be maintained life-long.

As a result, the growth of library services provided by voluntary agencies continued to develop during the decade. The young people can still benefit from them.

## REFERENCES

1. Urban Council Annual Report, 1977-78. Hong Kong Government Press
2. Kan Lai-bing & James O'Halloran. Libraries and Librarianship in Hong Kong: a look into the Eighties. Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no 5. 1980
3. Urban Council Annual Report, 1973-74. Hong Kong Government Press
4. Ibid
5. Urban Council Annual Report, 1975-76. Hong Kong Government Press
6. Timothy A Chow. Report on library provision for children and young people. Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no 4. 1977
7. Urban Council Annual Report, 1979-80. Hong Kong Government Press
8. Ibid
9. Ibid
10. Urban Council Annual Report, 1981-82. Hong Kong Government Press
11. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1987. Hong Kong Government Press

12. Urban Council Annual Report, 1976-77. Hong Kong Government Press
13. Urban Council Annual Report, 1972-73. Hong Kong Government Press
14. Urban Council Annual Report, 1983-84. Hong Kong Government Press
15. Urban Council Annual Report, 1988-89. Hong Kong Government Press
16. Urban Council Annual Report, 1972-73. Hong Kong Government Press
17. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1990. Hong Kong Government Press
18. Urban Council Annual Report, 1972-73. Hong Kong Government Press
19. Urban Council Annual Report, 1988-89. Hong Kong Government Press
20. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1987. Hong Kong Government Press
21. Regional Council Annual Report, 1987-88. Hong Kong Government Press
22. Regional Council Annual Report, 1988-89. Hong Kong Government Press
23. Ibid



24. Regional Council Annual Report, 1987-88.  
Hong Kong Government Press
25. Ibid
26. Regional Council Annual Report, 1988-89.  
Hong Kong Government Press
27. Regional Council Annual Report, 1987-88.  
Hong Kong Government Press
28. Regional Council Annual Report, 1988-89.  
Hong Kong Government Press
29. Regional Council Annual Report, 1987-88.  
Hong Kong Government Press
30. Regional Council Annual Report, 1986-87.  
Hong Kong Government Press
31. Ibid
32. Tuen Mun Central Library. Pamphlet. Regional  
Council, 1989
33. Kan Lai-bing. Library and Information Services  
in Hong Kong. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library  
Association, 1988
34. Ibid., 170
35. Ibid., 172-173
36. Ibid., 348

37. Ibid., 13-14

38. Ibid., 27-28

39. Ibid., 124-125

40. Ibid., 198

41. Position Paper on Library Service. The Hong Kong  
Council of Social Service, 1981

42. Ibid

43. Ibid

44. Ibid

## CHAPTER 6: THE HONG KONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Hong Kong Library Association was formed in 1958 to unite all library workers and people interested in libraries in Hong Kong. The Association is governed by a committee of professional librarians. Subcommittees are formed for the transaction of some business such as publications, provision of professional advice, cataloguing, etc.

The Association aims to encourage the establishment and development of libraries, provide assistance, such as professional advice in the establishment and development of libraries, co-operate with other library association in improving the library services in Hong Kong and the most important of all raise qualitative standards of library service through its offer of formal and informal professional education and training for librarianship.

The Association is very active in providing professional education and training for librarianship. The first course of formal education in librarianship was offered under its auspices in 1964. This certificate course, organised by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Hong Kong in cooperation with the Hong Kong Library Association provide basic training in librarianship for Library Assistants. The course was first given in English. In 1967-68, an equivalent course was also offered in Cantonese. In 1973, this certificate course for librarianship was also organised by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in conjunction with the Hong Kong Library Association.

After 1973, only the English stream was offered by the Department of Extra-Mural studies of the University of Hong Kong, and a parallel course conducted in Cantonese was organised by the Department of Extra-Mural studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.<sup>1</sup>

The course was designed to give basic training in librarianship and was therefore of sub-professional level. The training enabled library assistants and clerical staff already working in libraries to be more competent in the practical work in their own libraries.

In the 1970's, there was a rapid expansion in the provision of public library services by both the Urban Council and the Urban Services Department. In order to have local trained professional staff, the Urban Council tried to organise a course for their assistant librarians with the cooperation of the Department of Extra-Mural studies of the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Library Association. This three year part-time Diploma Course in Librarianship aimed to provide interested persons working in libraries with professional librarianship training. Started in January 1981, this course has provided professional training for about fifty Assistant Librarians to date.

On the other hand, the Hong Kong Library Association has been active in giving symposia and seminars on topics relevant to the needs of Hong Kong. Librarians and visiting lectures abroad are invited to give lectures. It is well aware of the librarianship of the outside world and of library cooperation

at the local, regional and international levels.

The articles in the journal published by the Hong Kong Library Association make readers aware of the constant development of the library services and current scene of librarianship.

The journals also publishes research articles addressing various professional issues, and so forms an important part of the total professional literature. The issues of the Journal reflects the varied interests of librarians and others within the library profession.

As regards membership, the academic libraries provide the largest group of Hong Kong Library Association members, followed by staff from special libraries, school libraries and those from the public libraries.

# REFERENCE

1. Kan Lai-bing. Training in Librarianship in Hong Kong 1960-69. Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.1, 1969. pp13-19

## CHAPTER 7: THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

The training for librarianship in Hong Kong can be divided into two periods. Period I (1964-80) and Period II (1981 onwards).

### Period I (1964-80)

During this period, there was no professional librarianship course in Hong Kong. The course of education on librarianship offered by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Hong Kong in cooperation with the Hong Kong Library Association only provides basic training in librarianship and is therefore of sub-professional level. This is a one-year part-time Certificate Course for Library Assistants working in libraries. Entry qualifications for this course<sup>1</sup> are:

#### (1) University of Hong Kong, Extra-Mural Studies

<u>Course</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Entry Qualifications</u>
Certificate Course for Library Assistants	Part- time evening	1 year	Five subjects including English at Grade E or above in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or equivalent

(2) Chinese University of Hong Kong, Extra-Mural Studies

<u>Course</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Entry Qualification</u>
Certificate Course for Library Assistants	Part- time evening	1 year	Five passes including English and Chinese Language in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or equivalent. The applicant should preferably be in employment in the relevant field and sponsored by the employer.

The following is the Syllabus of the Certificate Course for Library Assistants.

Part I: LIBRARY ROUTINES AND METHODS (50 hours)

Counter and circulation procedures

Registration of readers

Relations with the public, including telephone enquires

Charging, discharging, arranging the loan file

Reservations and renewals

Rules and regulations, interpretation and use

Security



## Processing

Book ordering: preparation of orders; receipt of books, checking against invoices and original orders

Accessioning and recording of stock

Preparation, physical handling of books, marking of ownership (book plates, labelling, stamping, etc.)

Preparation and recording of books for binding

## Basic Cataloguing and Classification Principles

Arrangement and physical form of catalogues

Author entry - brief reference to Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules

Arrangement of entry

Checking items against the catalogues

Sorting and filing cards

Cataloguing Chinese books

Introduction to organisation of knowledge

Outline description of Dewey decimal classification system

Outline description of Library of Congress classification system

Outline description of Chinese classification schemes

## Periodicals

Ordering, receiving, recording, preparation for binding, routings and circulation

## Maintenance of stock

Revision of stock; stocktaking; care and repair; rebinding

Display of materials

Preparation of shelf guides, posters and  
display work

Part II: GENERAL LIBRARY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE  
(22 hours)

Survey of types of libraries in Hong Kong,

library co-operation, inter-library loans

Practical background of organization and finance  
and effect upon work procedures, library dept.

Basic principles of book selection

Use of reference tools (including Chinese)

Arrangement of reference books, amendment: slips,  
noters-up, revisions and cumulations

Instruction in the use of the library and the  
use of books

Photocopying

Microforms, storage and handling and operation  
of microform readers

Audio-visual materials e.g. kits, slides, records,  
tapes etc.

Controlling stores, stationery and supplies

Part III: CHILDREN'S & SCHOOL LIBRARIES (14 hours)

Children's libraries and school libraries: aims;  
functions; relationship between these libraries

Library's layout; shelf arrangement; furniture  
and equipment

Library stock: basic principles of selection;  
sources of reviews and book lists; stock  
maintenance (organization, withdrawal and  
replacements of materials).

Classification and cataloguing; use of Dewey  
Decimal classification system

Circulation: records for school libraries, use and

loans (including records of individual reading)  
Instruction to children in the use of books and  
libraries; assistance to pupils in their school  
projects

Promotion of the use of these libraries; extension  
activities (exhibitions, story-telling, book  
talks etc).

Part IV: PRACTICAL WORK AND VISITS TO LIBRARIES  
(36 hours plus visits)

Using the library

Using reference books

Book ordering exercise

Practical applications of Dewey

Practical methods in cataloguing (including Chinese)

Simple classification using Dewey Decimal

Classification System

Visits to be arranged in co-operation with the

Hong Kong Library Association

Films

As this certificate course is not a professional course, people interested in taking up librarianship as a profession had either to study abroad or to sit the Library Association (London) Examinations as an external candidate without academic assistance of any kind. In 1967, the Librarianship Intermediate Part I course was offered by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Hong Kong that formal tuition prepared candidates for the Library Association professional examinations. Unfortunately, the course had to be discontinued in 1974 when overseas examining facilities were scheduled to be withdrawn gradually by the Library Association (London). No course leading to a professional examination has been

offered since.

Those who want professional education have to go abroad to study as a full-time study for a library qualification is not available in Hong Kong. A student may either obtain a bachelor degree in librarianship, or after obtaining a first degree in subjects other than librarianship, and then proceed to a post-graduate degree in Librarianship. Such courses are available in many universities in countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada.

In 1960's, the training of local staff in overseas Library Schools was carried out by the Urban Council Libraries. The first local officer completed his post-graduate course in Great Britain in September 1965 and another was sent to Australia for a ten months post-graduate course in librarianship at the University of New South Wales in February 1966.<sup>2</sup> In September, 1966, one Assistant Librarian II was sent to Britain for professional training. Government training scholarships were awarded for Assistant Librarians for full-time studies at schools of librarianship abroad during the 1960's and 70's.

#### Period II (1981 onwards)

In the 1980's, professional library staff were given visitorships to major library systems abroad to inspect the latest development in library work in order to further their knowledge and experience.

For the first time, trainee librarians can take

a course in Hong Kong which leads to a professional qualification in librarianship. This course is offered by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Hong Kong in conjunction with the Hong Kong Library Association. This part-time three-year professional course in Librarianship was started in January 1981.<sup>3</sup> Graduates will be awarded a Diploma in Librarianship from the Hong Kong Library Association.

The course is comparable to a similar one in the United Kingdom, but has an added advantage as it also deals with the treatment of Chinese material to satisfy local requirements. The course was the first of its kind held in Southeast Asia. A second Diploma Course was started in February 1984. This course aims to provide interested persons working in libraries with professional librarianship training. Entry qualifications for this course<sup>4</sup> are:

University of Hong Kong, Extra-Mural Studies

<u>Course</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Entry Qualifications</u>
Diploma in Librarianship	Part-time	3 years	A candidate for admission must possess either a bachelor degree of a recognised university or a qualification acceptable to the Board of Studies. In exceptional cases, consideration for admission will be

given to candidates without the above qualifications provided they are over 27 years of age, with an acceptable general education background and have at least 4 years of approved library experience.

Program Structure of the Diploma in Librarianship

Paper I - Introduction to Information Studies

Paper II - Knowledge, Power and Communication

Paper III - Management of Libraries and Information  
Agencies

Paper IV - Cataloguing and Classification (Western)

Paper V - Reference and Bibliography;

Cataloguing and Classification (East Asia)

Paper VI - Computer Application to Libraries

Paper VII - Research Methods and Evaluation (LS)

or

Telecommunications Theory and Applications  
(IM)

Paper VIII - Special Reference Services (LS);

or

Advanced Skills for Information Managers (LS)

or

Advanced Information Organization (LS);

or

Database Management Systems (IM);

or

Advanced Topics in Information Management (IM)

Note: (LS) - Library Science Stream Papers

(IM) - Information Management Stream Papers

For Paper VII and Paper VIII, students are required to choose one elective from either the Library Science Stream or the Information Management Stream.

#### REFERENCES

1. Library Work. Careers Pamphlet. Youth Employment Advisory Service, Labour Department.
2. Urban Council Annual Report, 1965-66. Hong Kong Government Press
3. Urban Council Annual Report, 1980-81. Hong Kong Government Press
4. Library Work. Careers Pamphlet. Youth Employment Advisory Service, Labour Department.



## CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION

Public library services in Hong Kong started early in 1840's. However, it was only confined to a small number of libraries and the collection was usually very small. Throughout the century, it can be seen that the development of library service was very slow and limited. Only in recent decades, have significant advances in the public library services taken place.

Voluntary agencies and cultural organisations are very active in providing public library services in Hong Kong. Before the establishment of the City Hall Library in 1962, public library services were mainly provided by them to serve the interests and needs of the community, particularly children.

With the rapid growth of a literate population and increasing demand for library facilities, the government began to take the lead in developing public library services in order to meet the education, recreation and information needs of the community as a whole. It can be seen that public libraries are in the greatest demand because they are open to everyone regardless of their status. As a result, public library development in Hong Kong progressed rapidly during the 1970's and 1980's. The Urban Council Public Libraries have taken a big step forward. The opening of the City Hall Library as the first in a network of Urban Council Public Libraries took place in March 1962. The Council now operates 30 libraries in the urban area. The library collection has increased to 2.4 million items. This includes

2,329,843 books and 128,289 items of audio-visual materials.<sup>1</sup>

The rapid population growth and precious land use in the urban area forced more and more people to move to live in the New Territories. Thus, library services in the New Territories have been developing rapidly in recent decades to meet the needs of the people. The Regional Council has taken up the task of providing library services for residents in the New Territories. To date, the Regional Council runs 23 libraries which hold a total of 1.2 million books and 70,000 items of audio-visual materials.<sup>2</sup>

Facilities provided by the libraries include lending services for adults and children, newspapers and periodicals, audio-visual services, students' study rooms as well as a wide range of extension activities and block loan services to non-profit-making organisations and penal institutions. Comprehensive reference services, reading machines for the blind and microcomputers are provided in the Kowloon Central Library and the City Hall Public Library. Databases on compact Disc-Read Only Memory and current awareness services are made available at the two reference libraries (Kowloon Central Library and the City Hall Library) for the effective retrieval of current information.

The professional training of local library staff offered by the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Library Association has developed since 1981. More and more well trained and qualified librarians are working in

the library field.

In regard to future development, both the Urban Council and Regional Council are now actively looking into library automation since usage rate has grown with population growth and book stocks and other materials have increased enormously. Computerization will enhance the day-to-day operation of libraries in such areas as circulation control, cataloging and acquisition of stock.

In addition, a book security system in all Urban Council Public Libraries in phases will be installed. This will help to improve the efficiency of the library service and to prevent the loss of library materials. The Security system is now installed in the reference library of the City Hall Public Library and the Arts Library.

In the near future, it can be predicted that an even more advanced library service will appear.

In the New Territories, the Regional Council is planning to set up a central library in Tsuen Wan in 1992. It will be the main central library for the Council. Apart from functioning as a central library for reference and information and audio-visual services, it will also provide supporting services for other libraries in the Council area. It will also house the administrative headquarters of the Libraries Section.

Over the next ten years, the Regional Council will set up three more standard district libraries

in Ma On Shan, Tin Shui Wai and Junk Bay according to population build-up and new town development. The Council is also planning to locate district libraries on outlying islands like Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Mui Wo and Tai O.

It is hoped that the development of library services will continue to progress in Hong Kong, and that library services will further make a big step forward to keep pace with other countries in the world.

#### REFERENCES

1. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1990. Hong Kong Government Press
2. Ibid

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Au Yeung, Shuk Chun & Kan Lai Bing. Recent development in Librarianship in Hong Kong. Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.3, July 1975. pp.1-6
2. Campbell, N. Libraries in Hong Kong. Library World, v.44, January 1942. pp.12-13
3. Cave, Margaret & Harley, John. The public libraries of Hong Kong. Library Association Record, v.65, October 1963. pp.370-373
4. Chandler, G. Hong Kong. In Libraries in the east; an international and comparative study. London, Seminar Press, 1971. pp.110-125
5. Chow, Timothy A. Library facilities available to the public in Hong Kong. International Library Review, v.6, 1974. pp.83-90
6. Chow, Timothy A. Report on library provision for children and young people. Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.4, 1977. pp.14-16
7. Hong Kong Annual Report, 1953-1990. Hong Kong Government Press
8. Hong Kong. Annual Departmental Report by the Chairman, Urban Council and Director of Urban Services, Hong Kong Government Press, 1960-61

9. Hong Kong. Urban Council and Urban Services  
Department monthly report on the work Jan-June, 1979
10. Hong Kong. Urban Council and Urban Services  
Department monthly report on the work Jan-June, 1989
11. Hong Kong Council of Social Service. Position  
paper on Library Service, 1981
12. Kan Lai-bing. Libraries in Hong Kong; a directory.  
Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library Association, 1963.
13. Kan Lai-bing. Library services in Hong Kong; a  
new directory. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library  
Association, 1975.
14. Kan Lai-bing. Library and Information Services  
in Hong Kong. Hong Kong; Hong Kong Library  
Association, 1988.
15. Kan Lai-bing. The current library scene in Hong Kong,  
Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.2,  
1971. pp.33-40
16. Kan Lai-bing. Training in Librarianship in Hong Kong  
1960-1969. Journal of the Hong Kong Library  
Association, no.1, 1969. pp.13-19
17. O'Hallorn, James. Libraries in and around Hong Kong.  
Catholic Pacific World, v.37, 1966. pp.289-291

18. O'Hara, Randolph. Hong Kong Library Association.  
In Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science,  
v.10. New York, Marcel Dekker, 1973. pp.494-498
19. Priscilla Tso & Kan Lai Bing. Education and  
Training in Librarianship in Hong Kong: twenty  
years on. Journal of the Hong Kong Library  
Association, no.5, 1980. pp.11-17
20. Public Library. In Old Hong Kong: a series of  
Articles to the South China Morning Post (1933-1935).  
v.3, no.58
21. Quinn, M., Kan Lai-bing & Rydings, H.A. Report  
of the Hong Kong Library Association Sub-committee  
on Professional Training for Librarians in Hong Kong.  
Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association, no.3,  
July 1975. pp.17-22
22. Regional Council Annual Report, 1986-89. Hong Kong  
Government Press
23. Report of the Advisory Committee on Library Services:  
a survey of Public Library Services in Hong Kong  
with Recommendations for their Development.  
Hong Kong, 1963
24. Rydings, H.A. Hong Kong, Libraries in. In  
Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science,  
v.10 New York; Marcel Dekker, 1973. pp.478-493



25. Rydings, H.A. Notes on Hong Kong Libraries in the Nineteenth Century. Journal of Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, no.8, 1968. pp.56-66
26. Urban Council. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Library Services. Hong Kong, 1964.
27. Urban Council Annual Report, 1962-1989. Hong Kong Government Press

