

Guide to Hong Kong Medical, Health and Welfare Libraries and Information Resources

Compiled by

The Medical, Health and Welfare Libraries Committee
of the Hong Kong Library Association
(MedCom)

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Introduction

Objectives of this Guide

The medical, health and welfare libraries in Hong Kong have a long history in government departments, universities and voluntary organizations. The information resources collected and the services rendered by these libraries and information centres have made a major contribution to the development of medicine, health care and welfare in Hong Kong.

MedCom's objective is to produce a definitive guide to these libraries, their collections and services in order to facilitate co-operation and mutual reference support among themselves. The guide is also aimed at promoting awareness of their existence among healthcare practitioners, researchers and the general public in Hong Kong and in the region. All libraries, and over 50,000 medical and health related professionals, academics, healthcare and welfare managers and administrators in Hong Kong (Cheng 1995, p. 24) will find this guide very handy in locating information sources very quickly.

Scope

The guide follows the definition of a "library" in Harrod's Librarians' Glossary in deciding what to include as libraries. A library is defined as "a collection of books and other literary materials kept for reading, study and consultation" and "a place, building, room or rooms set apart for the reading and use of a collection of books, etc." (Prytherch 1995, p.377)

Those organizations falling outside the above definition but carrying information resources and services which are of value and interest to the healthcare community are listed in a separate section in Part II.

Our policy is to include libraries or information centres whose collections are primarily limited to the fields of medicine, health care and social welfare. A special branch library or a specialized or departmental collection within a library is also covered when it carries medically and health related collections and delivers services to the community.

The listing or the inclusion of individual libraries and information centres in this Guide does not imply that their collections and facilities are all available to the public. References should be made to individual entries in the Guide and Part III Table 26 on their availability.

Methodology

The Guide is the result of a survey by questionnaire carried out in February/March 1995. Extensive research has been conducted on what type of information would be useful for librarians and users, the choice of words in the questionnaire, and population to be surveyed. The questionnaires have been pilot-tested in a few libraries before they were sent out. Altogether some 240 questionnaires were distributed, and 207 responses were returned. Among them, 130 organizations provided us with information about their libraries and organizations. Over 70 organizations responded with the answers that they did not have libraries or that their operations were not related to the survey. Some 40 organizations did not respond at all despite our reminders. The overall response rate was over 80%, thus increasing the representativeness of the survey.

Coverage

We used questionnaire A to obtain information about libraries and questionnaire B for information centres (Appendix A). Each entry contains only the information which has been provided by the respondent although every effort has been made to verify its accuracy and ensure its completeness.

There is one entry for each library in an organization. If an organization has three separate libraries, there will be three separate entries. Branch libraries however are grouped under the main organization.

Under each library, the following information is covered:

Library information:	name, address, contacts, year established, person in charge, staff, library type, source of funding.
Brief introduction:	objectives, mission statement, development plan.
Library collections:	size, language composition, subject coverage, cataloguing and classification, subject areas, electronic collections & facilities.
Library services:	services available, extension activities, publications, audio-visual facilities, opening hours and accommodation.
User community:	type of users, fees required, no. of users and services available for each type.

Under each information resource centre, the following information is incorporated:

Organization information: name, contact address and telephone, parent organization, year established, type and nature of funding, objectives or mission statement.

Service and facilities: functions, target group, extension activities, publications, opening hours.

The information provided should be correct as at the date of the survey. It is hoped that the Guide will be updated once every two years so that it can provide current information. It will also give us pertinent data to monitor the development of medical, health and welfare libraries in Hong Kong. Libraries and information centres are welcome to submit to MedCom any changes or amendments by photocopying the questionnaires provided in this book (Appendix A). Those not included in this Guide, but who wish to be, may send new entries to:

MedCom
Hong Kong Library Association
GPO Box 10095
Hong Kong

Arrangement

The Guide is divided into three main parts. Part I describes in full medical, health and welfare libraries in Hong Kong and arranges them alphabetically. Part II follows the same layout in presenting the information centres. Both Parts I and II start with an alphabetical listing and a Chinese name listing (by strokes) for easy reference. The names of the libraries and information centres were largely derived from the information provided by our respondents. Occasionally we may add the name of the parent organization in front for the sake of arranging the entries together or for easy identification.

Part III analyses from the survey results the medical, health and welfare library scene in Hong Kong and summarizes the key information relating to each library/information centre in statistical tables. The tables will be very useful for quickly referring to the collections and services of individual libraries.

A list of abbreviated terms, initialisms and acronyms used in this book is provided at the end in Appendix B. Indexes to numerous topics, persons and organizations have been compiled and put at the end of the book for easy searching.

This is a very specialized guide to information resources relating to medicine, health care and social welfare fields. Users may wish to refer to other reference tools for related information such as the *Medical and dental directory of Hong Kong* (Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong 1993), the *Directories of libraries in Hong Kong* (Kan and Chan 1996), the *Directory of social services* (Hong Kong Council of Social Service 1995) and the *Directory of professional associations and learned societies in Hong Kong* (Burton and Wong 1996).

Medical, health and welfare libraries in Hong Kong

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AIDS Concern Library

關懷愛滋圖書館

Library information

Address: Suite 17B, Block F, 3 Lok Man Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
 Telephone: 2898 4411
 Telephone of person in charge: 2898 4411
 Fax: 2505 1682
 Name of parent organization: AIDS Concern
 Year established: 1990
 Person in charge: Mrs Felicity M SHAW
 Professional library staff: 1
 Support staff: 0
 Library type: Social Welfare Organization
 Funding: Charitable donations

Objectives / mission:

AIDS Concern's mission is to help prevent the further spread of AIDS in Hong Kong and to lend practical and emotional support to people living with HIV and AIDS, their families and friends. The library is both a resources centre for AIDS Concern volunteers and clients, and a support for the organization's various educational and outreach programmes. Members of the public are most welcome to use the collection for reference and research.

Collections, services & facilities

Library collections

	1994
Books (volumes)	300
Journals & newsletters (active titles)	30
Non-print materials (sets)	60

Language(s): 5% Chinese
 90% English

Special collections: Clippings files, vertical files, poster collection.

Classification scheme

Books: DDC
 Journals & newsletters: Not classified
 Non-print materials: Not classified

Subject headings scheme: No subject headings used

Catalogue type: In-house developed index for clippings files, vertical files
Author/title catalogue for books

Subject emphasis:
AIDS, Dietetics & Nutrition, Nursing, Preventive Medicine & Public Health, Counselling, Healthcare Management, Applied Psychology, Hospice, AIDS-related Literature, Safer Sex Education, Training Materials for Outreach programmes.

Electronic media / facilities

Electronic media / facilities available:
Fax machine.

Services

Services:
Book loan, Journal service, AV materials service, Reference, Database searching, Photocopying, Interlibrary loan, End-user orientation and training.

Publications:
Information leaflets, Newsletters.

Facilities

Audio-visual facilities:
Video viewing facilities, Film projectors, Overhead projectors, Slide projectors.

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday (only by appointment)

Library accommodation: 15 sq. m. 5 seats

Eligible users

User Types	Fee Required	Annual Fee	Number of Users	Services Available						
				Book Loan	Database Searching	Interlibrary Loan	Journal Service	Reference	Photocopying	Public Enquiry
Member	-	No	250	✓		✓				✓
General public	-	No	n.a.	✓		✓				✓

AIDS Resource Library

Library information

Address: Specialist Clinic, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 30 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon
Telephone: 2958 6571
Telephone of person in charge: 2958 6571
Fax: 2783 7415
Name of parent organization: Special Medical Service, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Year established: 1994
Person in charge: Miss Rita CHUNG
Professional library staff: 0
Support staff: 0
Library type: Social Welfare Organization
Funding: Government

Objectives / mission:

Library providing information materials for AIDS patients and healthcare workers providing service to them.

Development plan:

Further collection of publications with special reference to the local setting and in Chinese language.

Collections, services & facilities

Library collections

	1994
Books (volumes)	50
Journals (active titles)	5
Video-tapes (sets)	30
Slides (sets)	3
Leaflets (sets)	40

Language(s): 20% Chinese
 80% English

Classification scheme

Books: Not classified
Journals & newsletters: Not classified
Non-print materials: Not classified

•Subject headings scheme: No subject headings used

Catalogue type: No catalogue/index available

Subject emphasis:
AIDS, Patient Education, Counselling.

Electronic media / facilities

Electronic media / facilities available:
Fax machine.

Services

Services:
Book loan.

Extension activities:
Group activities, Patient support group.

Facilities

Audio-visual facilities:
Video viewing facilities.

Opening hours: By special appointment.
Library accommodation: 15 sq. m. 4 seats

Eligible users

User Types	Fee Required	Annual Fee	Number of Users	Services Available							
				Book Loan	Database Searching	Interlibrary Loan	Journal Service	Reference	Photocopying	Public Enquiry	Others
Healthcare worker	No	-	n.a.	✓							
AIDS patient	No	-	n.a.	✓						✓	

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