

~~\$5~~ \$5m spent on 'insignificant' library losses

THE government has spent millions of dollars to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

Over the past five years, the Urban Council has installed high-tech Knogo brand electronic book sensors in public libraries at a cost of \$5.5 million.

But Urban Services spokesman Nancy Yeh said only 69 books had gone missing from the 31 Urban Council libraries since 1988.

"It's true we do not really have a problem with security in our libraries. In fact the figures are quite insignificant," Yeh said.

The purpose of the security system was to ensure greater efficiency and convenience to customers, she said.

The system was similar to that used in music shops to prevent customers from walking off with CDs and tapes. Any book removed through "improper channels" set off an embarrassing beeping noise.

So far, 25 libraries have installed the system.

Lam Tin Public Library will be the last when it is modified early next year.