

Country Report Japan

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee
Quebec Canada 2008

Copyright

Revision of copyright law

After the [partial amendment of the law related to social education](#) in June 11, 2008, its subordinate, the Library Law, is partially amended accordingly and promulgated and put in force in the same day. The major revised points are to call support for social education in homes, and to change the course configuration as well as the course credit for certification of librarians.

Law cases

[Council of concerned parties for library utilization of copyrighted materials], being held quarterly, deals with establishing guidelines on application of the Article 31 of the Copyright Law "reproduction in library," and started preparation of a guideline on photocopy services in libraries. Current task of the Council is to find a happy middle point between (a) library is able to offer photocopy of articles of serials except those included in the latest issue, and (b) the right owners permit photocopies of articles in a issue after 6 months of its publication.

Strategic plans for future

The Asahi Shimbun, a major national newspaper, reported in early June 2008 that the Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Headquarters, a consultative body to the Prime Minister, intends to bring in the concept of "fair use". However, the Copyright Division of the Cultural Agency who is the national government organ responsible for copyright administration has not shown any official move. The library community in Japan encourages the Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Headquarters to incorporate the concept of "fair use."

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