



Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM)

Country Report Japan

Annual report to the IFLA CLM committee
Seoul, Korea 2006

Copyright Issues of Japanese Libraries facing in 2006

Government Action

Little action is taken during August 2005 through July 2006 by the Government, except a list was included in the report published in January 2006 by the Legal Sub-committee, Copyright Council of the Agency of Cultural Affairs. The list covers the proposed items by the library community.

- (1) Library community should be able to convert media and reproduce those holding materials of which reproducing devices are not easily available (e.g. SP sound discs, videotapes in the Betamax type, etc.);
- (2) Library community can reproduce the entire volume (total pages) in case of government publication such as announces documents and official reports;
- (3) Library community should be included as one of facilities to create sound recordings for the visually handicapped people.

The Government of Japan seems to observe the development of negotiation between right owners and library community.

Activities of the [Council of concerned parties for library utilization of copyrighted materials]¹

The Council established in May 2004, composed of library community and right-holders, has been regularly meeting in every other month to discuss copyright problems caused in library services. In November 2005, the Council published two guidelines effective January 2006.

- (1) Guideline to allow photo-reproduction of the materials not only own holdings but also those borrowed from other libraries by the ILL services.
- (2) Guidelines to allow the accidental and simultaneous photo-reproduction of the object other than the target work.

As of July 2006, the Council is setting priority among the issues proposed by the both sides:

A) Proposed issues by library community

Whole pages photo-reproduction of the government publication
Preferential treatment for reproduction and transmission for handicapped people
etc.

B) Proposed issues by right-owners

Public Lending Right
Library should not accept photo-reproduction of library customers with commercial purpose
etc.

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¹ "Toshokan to ni okeru chosakubustu no riyo ni kansuru tojisha kyogika" (in Japanese)