Abstract

Implications of 'Smooth Rights Restriction Provisions' under the Japanese Copyright Act as Applied to Digital Works -Focusing on explaining Article 30-4-

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The 19th revisions to the Japanese Copyright Act has taken effect on 1 January 2019. The Copyright Act Amendment's primary aim is to balance the fair use of copyrighted works and the proper protection of copyright to correspond with the move towards digitization and networking. For this reason, the 'flexible rights restriction provisions' was newly established. These provisions flexibly apply to certain actions that are usually considered not to harm copyright owners' interests (Articles 30-4 and 47-4) and certain actions that may cause only minor harm to copyrights owners (Article 47-5).

Among these provisions, this paper focused on explaining the provisions of Article 30-4(Intended use of copyrighted works without the enjoyment of the ideas or emotions expressed therein). First, this provision is a rule applicable to digital works. Second, it restricts the scope of rights protection of copyrighted work to the enjoyment act of the ideas or emotions expressed the works therein, rather than the reproduction or public transmission act of that. Third, it distinguishes digital and program works. Fourth, the Japanese government considered the relationship with the moral rights in the right design. Finally, it was established in an eclectic form of specific regulation and general regulation. In conclusion, Japanese flexible rights restriction provisions provides implications for revising the copyright system on digital works.

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Keywords

Japan Copyright Act Amendment, Article 30-4, Flexible Rights Restriction Provisions, Use of Copyrighted Works Without Enjoyment.

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