

August 19, 2008  
NCC Council meeting  
Japan Liaison: Akio Yasue

## **Legislative issues related to Japanese libraries and archives**

### **1 Change of Social Education laws enacted in June 2008.**

There are changes in Japanese Library Law and Japanese Museum Law main points of which are:

Undertakings to provide opportunity of educational activities using result of leaning are added as scheme of libraries and museums.

Libraries and museums do make proper endeavors their evaluation, improvement and provision of information to local patrons.

The Minister of the Education, Science and Technology as well as Education Committee of each prefecture are to make training of librarians and curators.

People in social education institutions over 3 years are recognized to have practical experience to obtain qualification as librarian and curators.

Curriculum in universities to obtain librarian's qualification is to be established by the decree of MEXT.

### **2 Proposal of new Record Management Law**

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda assigned the State Minister Yoko Kamikawa in charge of improving the custodianship of official documents in February this year and in March Minister Kamikawa set up a government panel to discuss rules on proper maintenance of official documents. The panel reported tentative report in July and the final report in October is expected. It is scheduled that a draft of new law would be taken into deliberation at the next ordinary session of the Diet in 2009. New State Minister Kyoko Nakayama succeeded the charge of Minister Kamikawa this month.

One major point of the new law would be upgrading the institution responsible for appraisal, processing, preserving and provide access of official documents. It is expected to expand the responsibility and authority of the present National Archives the point of which includes the change of its status and staff size.

### **3 Examination of web archiving at the National Diet Library**

In order to archive and preserve Japanese web resources in long term, the National Diet Library continues to examine the issue. Its plan at present is to include

in ,the current legal deposit system of the National Diet library Law, web resources (publications) of Japanese government and national institutions.

#### **4 Discussion of the change of the Copyright Law**

The Japanese Copyright Law is under continues discussion at the Copyright Committee of the Agency for Cultural Affaire Some discussions are library issues such as to allow libraries freer digitization capability for preservation and access.

Meanwhile the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarter led by Prime Minister Fukuda has decided to make a Japanese version of a US copyright law stipulation that allows for the “fair use” of copyrighted works for criticism, analyses, media reporting and research. It is reported that the government intends to revise the Copyright Law to include a fair use stipulation next year.