

# **FOURTH REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE JAPAN (2015-2018)**

## **■ General information**

Country: Japan

Organization responsible for the preparation of the report:

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Officially designated contact institution: Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Name of designated official certifying the report:

Mami OYAMA, Secretary-General of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report:

With regard to the items of this report relating to specific provisions of the Recommendation, inquiries were made to the relevant ministries and agencies with jurisdiction over such item, and the report was prepared based on the answers received. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications who answered some questions in the previous report considered each item again and could not find good answers that fit the aims of questions including the answers received in the previous report, so this report does not contain answers from it.

## **■ Development of multilingual content and systems**

- **Detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers.**

The digital archives and database services of the National Diet Library (referred to below as “NDL”) and other organizations are available for use in each of the languages of English, Chinese and Korean via “NDL Search[1]” - an integrated searchable portal site.

In addition, the NDL website[2] provides English, Chinese and Korean versions of its webpages and NDL is making efforts to expand contents.

In addition to its Japanese website, the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records operated by the National Archives of Japan (referred to below as “NAJ”) has websites in

English, Chinese and Korean, and record searches can be performed in Japanese and English.

- **Information on support given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.**

A “Guide to the Digitalization of NDL Materials[3]” for use in the digitalization of the paper documents belonging to the NDL is available through the NDL website and may be used as reference in digitalization by organizations in Japan (including the digitalization of local materials (topography, etc.).

A “Guide to the Digitalization of NDL Audio Recordings (cassette tapes and flexi discs)Materials[3]” is also available through it’s website.

- **Development of public domain content**

- **Legal and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of this part of the Recommendation:**

**recognizing and enacting the right of universal online access to public and government-held records**

Article 15 of the Public Records and Archives Management Act, enforced in 2011, provides that, “The head of the National Archives of Japan, etc., shall prepare a catalog describing the matters necessary to contribute to the appropriate use of specified historical public records and archives” and, as one measure, the NAJ has been making its catalog publicly available on the Internet.

In addition, Article 23 of the same Act provides that, “The head of the National Archives of Japan, etc. shall actively endeavor to provide specified historical public records and archives for public use through exhibitions or other means”, and, as one measure, the NAJ is aiming to expand its digital archive.

**identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all, in particular persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities, women and girls.**

The NAJ has been operating the “National Archives of Japan Digital Archive” since 2005 making it possible to perform a search of the catalog database for all of the documents and records in its collections and to use the digital images of its documents and records. As of the end of March 2018, approximately 19,460,000 images, which correspond to about 17.2% of the collections, are available. In addition, the NAJ operates the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records. This is a website which makes the digital images of historical public documents and records relating to the relationships between Japan and its Asian neighbors and other countries in the modern times, provided by the three institutions of the NAJ, the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Center for Military History of the National Institute for Defense Studies, publicly available. As of the end of March 2018, the number of digital images which have been made publicly available is 30,870,000 images.

**promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, as well as information and media literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.**

National Curriculum Standards for elementary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools set out the developing of the ability to utilize information and information channels in each subject.

- **Information on whether open access solutions and web accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how, including supporting data, reference to best practices, examples and solutions.**

Digitalized materials in the public domain, which previously required an application to be submitted to the NDL for reprinting and use, became available for use from May 1, 2014 without the need for an application to be submitted[4].

The “NDL Web Accessibility Policy[5]” was revised in December 2018 with regard to web accessibility, and this policy is applied to the development and repair specifications of the NDL electronic information services (with the goal of being Grade AA compliant as specified in JIS-X 8341-3:2016 and others).

- **Reaffirming the equitable balance between the interests of rights-holders and the public interest**
  - **Action the Government has taken in order to update national copyright**

**legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace, consideration given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied and information on open access policies adapted, conditions to access open scientific data and any favourable conditions applied for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.**

A partial amendment to the Copyright Act was approved on May 18, 2018 and promulgated on May 25. This amendment aims to handle advancements of digitalization and networking through establishment of provisions to limit rights to create new industries, promoting ICT use in education, increasing access to information for persons with disabilities, promoting archives and so on.

Establishment of provisions relating to the automatic public transmission, etc. of library materials by the NDL

Law amendment in 2009 made the NDL possible to digitalize (reproduce) the original materials for the purpose of preserving them in order to avoid destruction by the public use.

In addition, with the law amendment in 2012, with regard to library materials which, in general, are difficult to obtain due to being out of print or some other similar reasons, in cases where the library, etc. intends to make them available to the public, it may transmit the reproduction of a copyrighted work which has been recorded on an object automatically to the public. And it became possible to transmit these items to overseas libraries with the law amendment in 2018.

With regard to restrictions on rights pertaining to the use of copyrighted works in the library, the NDL may collect (copy) contents<sup>[6]</sup> transmitted by a private organization through the Internet (e-books and e-magazines) without obtaining the permission of the copyright holder.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://iss.ndl.go.jp/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ndl.go.jp/>及<sup>3</sup> <http://www.kodomo.go.jp>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/preservation/digitization/guide.html> (Only available in Japanese at the time of December 2018)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/news/fy2014/1205460\\_1829.html](http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/news/fy2014/1205460_1829.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/standards/accessibility/policy.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/online/detail.html#anchor1>