

JPO comments on the studied proposal of improvement of Locarno classification

We would like to submit following comments towards “Position paper of the Institute of information studies and librarianship of Charles University in Prague on the studied proposal of improvement of Locarno classification” and “universal visual indicator (common categories)” which we received 13 January 2009.

We are certain that establishing common indexes applicable to all classes of Locarno classification is not appropriate.

Because it is quite difficult to continually put universal indicators correctly. If we made common indexes applied to all classes, the number of indexes must be enormous. It is not difficult to select an appropriate index to a design application among enormous indexes. However it is quite difficult to continually put the same index to design applications for plural same articles/products done in various timing. Therefore, we are certain that establishing common categories applicable to all classes of Locarno classification is not appropriate.

Considering that there are many kind of goods in Locarno classification, we think that it is efficient to make individual index under every class (main/sub) which need index by shape or pattern according to necessity of the index by shape or pattern.

(As a result, some classes (main /sub) might have common index.)

Making index under every class (main/sub) enables to make assignment rules for every index. It is important to be able to make assignment rules for every index flexibly, because necessary indexes are different in every class.

For example “pattern”, some fields need an index concerning with pattern or without pattern. On the other hand, other fields need indexes concerning what kind of pattern; “flower pattern”, “animal pattern”. Therefore it is desirable to make index in each class.

It is possible to make common index depending on the structure of indexes, however it is necessary to make assignment rules for every index and to

manage the assignment rules continuingly.

In the case that common index for plural classes is needed, each class is able to have common index.

In the case of Japanese Design Classification, the class for television and the class for digital camera which have “graphic image on a screen”, they have common D-term as for “graphic image on a screen”.