

*the 30th
Anniversary*

— History of ACCS —



ACCS

Association of Copyright for Computer Software



Greetings

The fact that the Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS) has been able to reach this milestone 30th anniversary is precisely thanks to all our members who have supported us on a day-to-day basis, as well as the generous assistance and support of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, National Police Agency, and other related ministries and agencies, investigative authorities, and other related organizations. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express my warmest appreciation to you all.

Not stopping at measures against copyright infringement aimed at protecting copyright for computer software, ACCS has since our foundation been actively working to realize a society that respects copyright itself, focusing on advertising and educational activities. Many like-minded companies, organizations, and individuals from throughout Japan and the world have come together at ACCS, working as one to carry out various activities.

Through the activities in which I have been involved as the Chairman of ACCS, as well as through my own company's global business expansion, I have keenly felt that the Copyright Act is at the root of the software and contents businesses. Neither creation nor business is possible unless copyright is protected, and copyright holders themselves need to work hard in protecting their copyrights. In the Age of the Internet, however, I am gravely concerned that awareness of the copyrights of business operators who handle content is fading.

Looking forward towards the next 30 years, the importance of copyright shows no signs of lessening. Companies handing game software, business software, and digital contents—it is my heartfelt wish that you join ACCS, participating in and supporting our activities so that a society in which copyright is respected may be realized.

Kenzo Tsujimoto
Chairman,

Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS)

1985~1989

Dawn of the era of program copyrights to eliminate illegal copying

Pick Up 1985


Protection of copyrighted programs under the Copyright Act

The diffusion of personal computers began before a conclusion could be reached on how to legally protect software, and illegal copies of computer software, particularly game software, became a problem. Discussions took place between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and the Agency for Cultural Affairs about the creation of a legal system and software under the Copyright Act, which was amended in June 1985.

Pick Up 1985

Establishment of the Association of Software Legal Protection Supervision

At the time, there was one industrial organization for computer software, the Japan Personal Computer Software Association (JPSA) (now the Computer Software Association of Japan (CSAJ)). However, because it became necessary to further strengthen copyright protection for computer software with the amendment of the Copyright Act, the Association of Software Legal Protection Supervision was established as a separate organization within JPSA. This organization later developed into the Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS).

	History of ACCS	Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.	Support of measures against infringement	Changes in infringement crimes
1985	▶ Established within the Japan Personal Computer Software Association (JPSA) as the Association of Software Legal Protection Supervision Pick Up	▶ Protection of copyrighted programs under the Copyright Act Pick Up		
1986	▶ Joins the Anti-Counterfeiting Association (ACA) as the Association of Software Legal Protection Supervision		▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of the sale of pirated items in stores	Sale of pirated items in stores
1987			▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of unauthorized rentals by stores	Unauthorized rentals by stores
1988			▶ Petitions the Committee for Inquest of Prosecution regarding case of unauthorized software copying and case not being prosecuted	
1989	▶ Creates a five-inch floppy disk version of the "Illegal Copying Prohibition Mark" (the ACCS symbol) Pick Up 		▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of unauthorized rentals of video game software by stores	Pseudo rentals by stores

Pick Up 1989

Creation of a five-inch floppy disk version of the "Illegal Copying Prohibition Mark" (the ACCS symbol)

In response to the spread of illegal computer software copying, illegal operators were investigated. Police departments throughout Japan provided cooperation in detecting illegal operators, and the number of court cases increased. At the same time, following licensing of the "Illegal Copying Prohibition Mark" developed by JustSystems Corporation (which was already an organization member) all member companies began displaying this symbol from June 1989 onwards as a means of expressing their intention to never recognize or accept illegal copying. In 1998, the symbol was registered as a collective trademark.

1990~1995

Becoming an independent incorporate association and establishing measures against infringement

Pick Up 1990

Separation from JPSA and change of name to the Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS)

Member companies expressed the opinion that the organization should be more vocal towards the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which oversees the Copyright Act, including in regard to amending the Act, and the Association of Software Legal Protection Supervision separated from JPSA, becoming an independent organization. The name of the organization was changed to the Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS) at an extraordinary general meeting held on September 10, 1990. Approval for establishment was given by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the ACCS was born as an incorporated association at the inaugural general meeting held on July 18, 1991. At the suggestion of the then Deputy Secretary-General the abbreviation "ACCS", pronounced the same as "axe", was adopted.

Pick Up 1992

Publication of "Basic Course on Copyright in the Multimedia Age" (–1998)

"Basic Course on Copyright in the Multimedia Age" was published as a textbook providing easy-to-understand explanations of information related to the protection of software rights. Widely used for training and study purposes, the textbook underwent several reprintings and was published up until 2008, with the title changing to "Basic Course on Copyright in the Digital Age" in 1999.

Various other copyright textbooks were published, including "Introductory Course on Copyright for Creators" (2009, 2013), "Understandable Copyright: Basic Creative x Business Knowledge (Illustrated)" (2010); and "Textbook for The Examination of Copyright Proficiency for Practical Business" (2015, 2020).



	History of ACCS	Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.	Support of measures against infringement	Changes in infringement crimes
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Separated from the JPSA and changes its name to the Association of Copyright for Computer Software (ACCS) Pick Up ▶ Conducts internal SAM (software asset management) seminars for companies ▶ Presents lectures for investigative organizations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of pseudo-rentals of video game software by stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pseudo rentals by stores
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Receives approval from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture to become a corporation ▶ Begins dispatching instructors to educational institutions 			
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Publishes "Basic Course on Copyright in the Multimedia Age" (–1998) Pick Up 			
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Office relocated to Otsuka, Bunkyo City, Tokyo (present location) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sale of pirated items misusing computer online services
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Commences holding copyright classes for parents and children (–2009) Pick Up ▶ Joins the Copyright Research and Information Center (CRIC) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the simultaneous detection and exposure of sales of pirated items via personal computer communication 	
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Receives a Cooperative Service Award and Letter of Appreciation from the Chiba Prefectural Police, and a Letter of Appreciation from the Ichinomiya Police Station, Aichi Prefecture 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support related to preservation of evidence in the first case of illegal copying within organization Pick Up ▶ Case of pirated Windows95 copies being sold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sale of pirated items misusing the internet

Pick Up 1994

Commencement of holding copyright classes for parents and children (–2009)

Having been convinced of the importance of diffusion and education being carried out in parallel with protection against copyright infringement ever since the time of its establishment, ACCS sent instructors and provided classes on copyright to investigative and educational institutions. ACCS also poured its effort into seminars, proactively holding seminars aimed at businesses in particular that were taught by guest lecturers such as lawyers and other experts on topics including not only copyright knowledge but also copyright-related laws, contracts, and software asset management (SAM). Copyright classes for parents and children were held during the summer school holidays every year with the cooperation of member companies with the aim of raising children's awareness of copyright protection from a young age in order to create a world free of illegal copying.

Pick Up 1995

Provision of support for preservation of evidence in the first case of illegal copying within organization

The Osaka District Court has filed a petition by three business software makers, including ACCS members, to carry out evidence preservation procedures for computer software that appears to be illegal copying within the organization of companies in Osaka City. Preserving evidence for violations of copyright law in computer software is the first procedure in Japan, and ACCS cooperated fully in making this allegation, including close contact with the three companies and consolidating evidence for a year. As a result of the evidence preservation procedure, many copies (installation) of the software subject to the allegation and use in business were confirmed, but only a small number of original software discs and license agreements could be confirmed, which is illegal within the organization. I was able to confirm that the copy was done. Since computer software does not take time to erase, there is a slight time lag between the delivery of the decision and the actual verification, and the evidence can be erased in that time, so it has been said that it is difficult to preserve evidence, but we have a meeting with the Osaka District Court. We came to implement it by repeatedly gaining understanding. Even now, there are many confirmations of the actual usage of software in the organization (installation status and license confirmation) by the evidence preservation procedure. This case did not lead to a proceeding, and the settlement was reached when the other company admitted the illegal copy, paid damages, and built a subsequent management system.

1996-2000

Responding to the widespread everyday violation of copyright infringements arising from the diffusion of the Internet

Pick Up 1997

Commencement of measures against the sale of pre-owned video games

Video game software CD-ROMs and cartridges were being repeatedly sold as pre-owned products. Sensing the danger that new products may not sell because of this, video game manufacturers filed lawsuits in Tokyo and Osaka seeking to stop pre-owned video game stores from selling pre-owned video games. ACCS provided support by presenting the Copyright Council of the Agency for Cultural Affairs with opinions regarding rights of distribution and holding briefing meetings and symposiums on the issue of selling pre-owned video game software.

Beginning with the filing of lawsuits with the Tokyo District Court and Osaka District Court in 1998, this battle continued right up to the Supreme Court, but unfortunately the April 2002 judgement of the Supreme Court determined that, of rights of distribution regarding video game software, the right of ownership transfer was exhausted, rejecting the video game manufacturers' claim.

Pick Up 1997

Provision of support for the detection and exposure of the modification and unauthorized reproduction of civil engineering estimate programs

This was a case in which an employee who had quit took the company's civil engineering estimate program with them without authorization and then partly modified and copied the program at their new place of employment for sales purposes. Following preservation of evidence by the courts, this case was exposed as a criminal case.

In such cases, not only is it difficult to obtain evidence, but also perpetrators tend to carry out "hidden infringements" such as changing programming language or adding partial modifications. In this particular case, legal action was taken, ringing warning bells for copyright infringement.

	History of ACCS	Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.	Support of measures against infringement	Changes in infringement crimes
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Additionally produces an "Illegal Copying Prohibition Mark" CD-ROM version 			Sale of pirated items misusing the internet
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establishes the ACCS website ▶ Commences measures against the sale of pre-owned video games ▶ Launches/joins the Network Music Rights Conference (NMRC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Granting of rights of public transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of unauthorized reproduction of civil engineering estimate modification software 	
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The ACCS Piracy Hotline (now the Copyright Hotline) is created 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of sale of pirated items by a group of foreign-national street vendors in Akihabara, Tokyo 	Illegal uploading misusing the internet
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "Basic Course on Copyright in the Digital Age" published (~2008; Seventh Revised Edition/Second Printing) ▶ "What is License Management of Computer Software?" published ▶ Receives a Letter of Appreciation from the Sendai-Minami Police Station, Miyagi Prefecture ▶ Becomes the first Japanese organization to receive a Business software Alliance (BSA) Software Champion Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Protection of technological protection measures ▶ Revision of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act (protection of technological restriction measures (access control)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provision of support in the first lawsuit for an illegal copying within organization 	Sale of pirated items misusing internet auctions
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "Copyright Infringement on the Internet: Analysis of the Current situation and Implementation of Criminal Proceedings" published ▶ Receives a Letter of Appreciation from the Nishinomiya Police Station, Hyogo Prefecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening of penalties for corporations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in detecting and exposing illegal uploading from the Famicom Kessitai website 	Illegal screening of films by stores

Pick Up 1998-2011

Provision of support for the exposure of a group of foreigner street vendors selling pirated goods in Akihabara, Tokyo

This was a case in which a group of foreigner street vendors was handing out fliers advertising "preowned software" in the electric town in Akihabara, Tokyo, and selling more than 200 types of pirated business software on the street. The perpetrators in this case divided up their roles into "handing out fliers", "soliciting customers", and "delivering pirated goods". Five foreign nationals were arrested. Between 1998 and 2011, a further 11 similar cases were detected and exposed, with ACCS providing cooperation such as conducting fact-finding surveys and examining pirated goods on-site. Today, selling on pirated goods on the street has been eradicated.

Pick Up 1999

Protection of technological protection measures

In order to prevent illegal copying of copyrighted goods that have been digitalized, such as game software, software manufacturers implemented technological measures such as copy guard. However, copy guard cancelers and other devices for circumventing technological protection measures became available, preventing the expected effects of the protection measures. Accordingly, regulations related to technological protection methods were prescribed under the Copyright Act.

Pick Up 1999

Provision of support in the first lawsuit for illegal copying within organization

Seven business software manufacturers, including ACCS members, filed a civil suit seeking compensation for damages under the Copyright Act against a company with headquarters located in Tokyo. This civil suit filing, for which ACCS provided support in order to protect copyright, was the first case in Japan to take drastic measures against illegal copying of business software within an organization. A settlement was reached when the company in question admitted to the illegal copying and paid compensation for damages.

Pick Up 2000

Provision of support for detecting and exposing illegal uploading from the Famicom Kessitai website

This is was a case in which Famicom Kessitai (Famicom Suicide Corps)—a website posting the provocative declaration "Uploading [software] helps manufacturers acquire new customers"—was established and the four founders were arrested for illegally uploading large quantities of game software. The case was detected and exposed soon after Rights of Public Transmission had been allowed and became a case example providing a glimpse of the importance of rights with regard to the Internet.

2001~2003

Promoting measures against file-sharing software and in favor of appropriate use

Pick Up 2001

Formulation of "Software Asset Management that Can Be Implemented Immediately"

Working in cooperation with ACCS members, while pursuing measures against cases of illegal copying within organizations, ACCS discovered that there were more than a few cases in which the cause of the illegal copying was the organization's insufficient SAM. Accordingly, ACCS compiled SAM items and methods into a manual entitled "Software Asset Management that Can Be Implemented Immediately" and subsequently held regular "SAM seminars" based on this manual aimed at business operators and staff responsible for SAM as well as sending copies of the manual to companies, groups, and local government bodies with requests that they implement SAM.

As the result of these activities, the need for organizations to implement SAM became common knowledge virtually throughout society. Furthermore, there was a decreasing trend in both the number of incidents of information about illegal copying being reported to ACCS and the scale of unauthorized use of software, indicating that the diffusion of SAM bore fruit in the form of preventing illegal copying.



2001

History of ACCS

- ▶ Compiles "Software Asset Management That Can Be Implemented Immediately" **Pick Up**
- ▶ Appointed as a special member of the Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (—present)
- ▶ Appointed as an expert member of the Information Subcommittee, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (one term)
- ▶ Appointed as an expert member of the International Subcommittee, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (—present)

Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.

- ▶ Act on Copyright, etc. Management Service is enacted

Support of measures against infringement

- ▶ Provides support for the first exposure of illegal uploading using "WinMX" file-sharing software **Pick Up**
- ▶ First time criminal charges are laid against "manga café" operators for unauthorized screening of video game software

Changes in infringement crimes

- ▶ Illegal screening of films by stores
- ▶ Illegal uploading through misuse of file-sharing software

2002

- ▶ Appointed as an expert member to the Agreement and Distribution Subcommittee, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (two terms)
- ▶ Appointed as an expert member to the Copyright Education Subcommittee, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (two terms)
- ▶ Appointed as an expert member to the Judicial Relief System subcommittee, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (two terms)
- ▶ Launches/joins the Content Overseas Distribution Association (CODA)
- ▶ "Introduction to Information Ethics 2002" published
- ▶ First "Fact-finding Survey on Use of File-Sharing Software" (—2014)
- ▶ Provides cooperation for the exhibition "20th Anniversary of the Birth of Famicom: Level X TV Games" held by the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum
- ▶ Supreme Court decision on lawsuit against the sale of pre-owned video games (1998–2002)

- ▶ Act on the Limitation of Liability for Damages of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Identification Information of the Senders (Provider Liability Limitation Act) is enacted.

2003

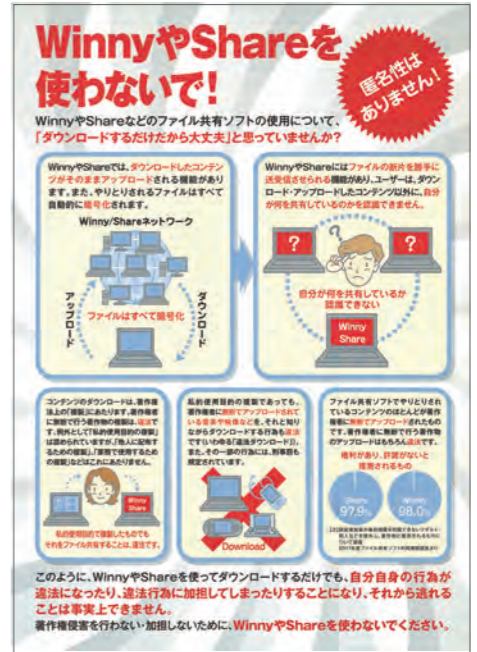
- ▶ The ACCS Shanghai Office established
- ▶ "Information Ethics Q&A by Minami-sensei and Yoshiko-sensei" published
- ▶ Personal information leaked and diffused from the ACCS-operated website

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of the first case of uploading using "Winny"

Pick Up 2001

Provision of support for the first exposure of illegal uploading using "WinMX" file-sharing software

File-sharing software enabling the exchange of files between users without passing through a server became available at the beginning of 2000, leading to the illegal distribution of many kinds of copyrighted items. With file-sharing software, there is no network manager, and so conventional measures such as issuing takedown notices cannot be implemented. Furthermore, the number of file-sharing software users grew because the software is highly anonymous and can be used free of charge, making this software extremely problematic. In response, the first arrests for illegal uploading of business software using "WinMX" file-sharing software were made in November 2001. Following the illegal uploading of game software using "Winny" in November 2003 and a criminal lawsuit brought against the developers of "Winny", ACCS subsequently provided support to member companies as well as investigative organizations investigating Japan's first criminal case involving the illegal uploading of anime using "Share" in May 2008. Furthermore, the police implemented a simultaneous crackdown on file-sharing software users every year between 2009 and 2016. In May 2008, the "Consortium against Copyright Infringement via File-Sharing Software (CCIF)" was established through coordination between copyright organizations and telecommunications carriers. CCIF introduced a mechanism for sending warning email to users of file-sharing software in 2010, and by 2020 has sent more than 100,000 warning e-mails.



2004~2008

Measures against infringements in collaboration with business operators

Pick Up 2004

Establishment of ACCS Shanghai Office (–2009)

ACCS established its first overseas operational base, the ACCS Shanghai Office, with full-time staff assigned by 2009, and support was provided to Chinese businesses that become members. In addition, educational activities regarding the importance of software asset management (SAM) were conducted for the local offices of Japanese companies.

Pick Up 2005

Establishment of a comprehensive alliance with Sanno University for developing and implementing “Contents Business/Information Ethics” subjects

In 2005, ACCS formed an alliance with Sanno University for developing and implementing lectures in “Contents Business/Information ethics” subjects, providing operational support. As a result of this alliance, Sanno University newly established a “Contents Business Course”, and ACCS continues to provide cooperation for the university’s copyright-related educational activities. Furthermore, in 2006 ACCS arranged with Yamaguchi University to provide external instructors to teach certain university courses, with ACCS staff teaching lectures and creating educational videos. ACCS also cooperates in activities to convey copyright education methods to other universities.

ACCS also cooperated with the National Institute of Technology, Sendai College, providing advice on copyright-related issues and compiling copyright-related educational materials. With regard to Cyber University and Waseda University, ACCS provided advice related to the protecting the copyright of educational materials, while also working in cooperation with various other educational institutions to promote copyright education.

Pick Up 2005

Launch and membership of the Council for Intellectual Property (CIPP)

As a measure against the sale of pirated goods via Internet auctions, ACCS and YAHOO Japan Corporation constructed a special countermeasures scheme, collaborating in its implementation. Based on this scheme, in 2005 multiple right holders and telecom operators worked together to establish the Council for Intellectual Property (CIPP) in order to implement measures against infringements on intellectual property rights, and the CIPP successfully achieves results.

ACCS has long served as a Right Holders Coordinator for CIPP, moderating Council discussions among right holders and telecom operators from its central position.

	History of ACCS	Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.	Support of measures against infringement	Changes in infringement crimes
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Symposium to consider information ethics and e-Education held ▶ The ACCS Shanghai Office established (–2009) Pick Up ▶ “Manga: Dangerous Games in the Age of the Internet and Mobile Telephones (Junior High School/High School Edition)” published ▶ The ACCS website attacked by a computer virus that has infected the computer of a Winny user 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening of penalties 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized sale of pirated items Illegal uploading through misuse of file-sharing software
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establishes a comprehensive alliance with Sanno University for developing and implementing “Contents Business/Information Ethics” subjects Pick Up ▶ Begins holding information safety education seminars in collaboration with educational institutions (–2018) ▶ The ACCS website URL changed ▶ Establishes/becomes a member of the Council for Intellectual Property (CIPP) Pick Up 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of a group making over 200 million yen from the sale of pirated items 	
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides training for Metropolitan Police Department investigators (–2015) Pick Up ▶ Receives a Letter of Appreciation from the Iwaki Central Police Station, Fukushima Prefecture, and the Fukui Police Station, Fukui Prefecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening of penalties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Utilizes “information sharing schemes” for the first times and provides support in the detection and exposure of sale of pirated items in auctions ▶ Organization that produced and sold illegally modified ROMs for pachinko machines referred to prosecutors ▶ Provides full support in the detection and exposure of the sale of pirated items by street vendors in Nipponbashi, Osaka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal uploading misusing video-sharing websites and online storage
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Appointed as an expert member of the Subcommittee on the Protection and Use of Previously Copyrighted Items, Copyright Subdivision of the Cultural Council (two Terms) ▶ Concludes a MOU with the Societa Italiana degli Autori ed Editori (SIAE) regarding measures against pirated items ▶ Begins cooperating with Cyber University with regard to copyright processing/education(–2010) ▶ Concludes MOU agreements with the China Software Alliance (CSA) and Korea Software Property-rights Council (SPC) regarding SAM ▶ “Basic Lectures on Copyright for Creators” published 			
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies the “Information Ethics” leaflet Pick Up Cooperates with the Manseibashi Police Station, Chiyoda City, and the Manseibashi Crime Prevention Society to erect standing signboards in Akihabara Pick Up Launches and joins the Consortium against Copyright Infringement via File-sharing Software(CCIF) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of the first case of uploading using “Share” ▶ Provides support for filing a lawsuit regarding majikon game copiers 	

Pick Up 2006

Provision of training for Metropolitan Police Department investigators (–2015)

In order to nurture police investigators who are knowledgeable about protection of intellectual property rights and other copyrights, ACCS provided training to police investigators at the request of the Metropolitan Police Department from 2006 until 2015.

Having returned to the Metropolitan Police Department after completing the approximately three-month ACCS training course, police investigators continued to play active roles throughout the Department, with many handling criminal cases involving ACCS members.

Pick Up 2008

Compilation of the “Information Ethics” leaflet

In 2000, the Committee for the Promotion of Information Ethics in Schools” was established and began disseminating and teaching information about “information ethics”, which were guidelines for appropriate behavior in the information society. In 2008, a leaflet entitled “Information Ethics” was compiled from information on the content and activities that had been disseminated up until that point in order to further promote dissemination of this information.

Pick Up 2008

Cooperation with the Manseibashi Police Station, Chiyoda City, and the Manseibashi Crime Prevention Society to erect standing signboards in Akihabara

In response to the selling of pirated goods on the streets, ACCS cooperated with the Manseibashi Police Station, Chiyoda City, and the Manseibashi Crime Prevention Society to produce signboards printed in Japanese and Chinese warning sellers of pirated goods and urging buyers to be cautious and erecting the signboards in ten locations around the Electric Town in Akihabara.

In November 2013, the four entities again worked jointly in carrying out a campaign to re-erect the signboards and distribute crime prevention fliers.

Similar efforts were also carried out in Shinjuku City, with ACCS working jointly with the police to carry out educational activities, leading to the eradication of sales of pirated goods on the street.

2009~2015

Multi-layered copyright protection through relevant laws

Pick Up 2010

Partial illegalization of downloading and advertising acts deemed to constitute infringement

Knowingly downloading music or videos distributed illegally on the Internet (illegal downloading) became an infringement of copyright, even when the music/video was to be used for private purposes, in January 2010, and furthermore became eligible for criminal punishment in October 2012.

Furthermore, in 2010 submitting pirated goods for sale in an Internet auction became regarded as an act of advertising and thus a copyright infringement.

Pick Up 2010

Provision of support in the first case of detection of illegal video uploading on YouTube

This was a case in which a junior high school student was arrested for illegally uploading manga published in Weekly Shonen manga magazines in video files, like a kamishibai picture-story show, via the medium of YouTube.

This junior high school student sent notification of updated information on the posted video via blogs and SNS in order to guide affiliated advertising, and the posted video was replayed more than eight million times in total.

By simultaneously being the first time illegal uploading on YouTube was detected and involving the arrest of a fourteen-year-old boy, this case had a huge impact on society.

Pick Up 2010

Provision of support in the first criminal case of detection of corporate use of pirated software for business purposes

This was a case in which a corporation was discovered to have obtained pirated graphics software and have been using this software in business activities such as producing catalogs. Knowingly obtaining pirated computer software and then utilizing it in business activities is deemed to constitute infringement under the Copyright Act, and this was the first time that this regulation was applied to expose such illegal activities.

This case served as a huge warning against the purchasing of pirated software as well as illegal copying within an organization, which is a classic example of use of pirated software for business purposes.

	History of ACCS	Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.	Support of measures against infringement	Changes in infringement crimes
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Committee on Measures against Infringement, Committee on Legal and General Affairs, and Committee on Public Relations established ▶ Receives Letters of Appreciation from the Aomori Prefectural Police, Iwate Prefectural Police, and Hokkaido Prefectural Police Joint Investigation Headquarters 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides full-nation-wide support in the detection and exposure of P2P file-sharing software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Elaborate sale of pirated items ▶ Illegal uploads misusing video-sharing websites and online storage
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "Illustrated Guide to Copyright" published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Downloading excluded from the sphere of reproduction for private use and illegalized; advertising acts deemed to constitute infringement Pick Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the first case of detection of illegal video uploading on YouTube Pick Up ▶ Provides support in the first criminal case of detection of corporate use of pirated software for business purposes Pick Up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers ▶ Use of pirated items for business purposes
2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Unfair Competition Prevention Act revised (strengthening of regulations concerning technological restriction measures) Pick Up 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use of content via illegal means/methods
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Becomes a general incorporated association ▶ Begins conducting crime prevention campaigns in collaboration with investigative organizations (~2018) ▶ Vehicle theft prevention campaign (conducted jointly with the Toyohashi Police Station, Aichi Prefecture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal penalties set for some cases of illegal downloading ▶ Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) concluded 		
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Begins cooperating in intellectual property education at YAMAGUCHI UNIVERSITY ▶ ACCS smartphone website developed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the first case of detection of the sale of majikon game copiers and infringement of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act Pick Up 	
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Begins joint campaign with Japan Customs to prevent counterfeit items entering Japan (~2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Publishing rights for e-books implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of two cases simultaneously (pirated business software/uploading) 	
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "Business Copyright Certification BASIC: Official Textbook for Beginners" published 			

Pick Up 2011

Revision of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act (strengthening of regulations concerning technological restriction measures)

In order to strengthen protection of technical measures for copyrighted items, the Revised Unfair Competition Prevention Act was enacted in December 2011 and the Revised Copyright Act was enacted in January 2012.

ACCS participated in the councils assembled by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Agency for Cultural Affairs to consider revisions to these laws, pouring every effort into amending the laws.

Pick Up 2013

Provision of support in the first case of detection of the sale of majikon game copiers and infringement of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act

Nintendo DS was installed with technological restriction measures, but it was possible to circumvent these restriction measures and play with pirated game software by using majikon ("magic computer") game copiers.

Enactment of the Revised Unfair Competition Prevention Act in December 2011 introduced criminal punishments for the act of providing majikon. In accordance with the revised law, in May 2012 criminal charges were brought for the first time against a website that had purchased imported majikon at a store located in the Electric Town in Nipponbashi, Osaka, in July of the previous year. In investigating the circumstances of the sale, ACCS found that ingenious methods had been used, such as selling the internal main unit of the majikon (circuit board) and the storage cartridge separately, inside and outside the store.

Following the exposure of this illegal activity, ACCS worked together with police and customs officials in many areas to hold multiple events aimed at widely disseminating information about the problems of majikon and pirated game software, pouring effort into educational activities.



2016~2020

Toward the growth of culture up until now and from now on

Pick Up 2017

Provision of support for the detection and exposure of illegal uploading using “Haruka-yume-no-ato”

This was a case in which manga works were illegally uploaded using “Haruka-yume-no-ato”—a “leech site” that listed file information for illegal uploading of publishing content—and those who uploaded the works as well as the “Haruka-yume-no-ato” operators were arrested. In addition to summarizing the case, ACCS provided cooperation in clarifying the situation by, for example, calculating that there had been approx. 73.1 billion yen in manga damage caused over the previous year through the “Haruka-yume-no-ato” site.

Pick Up 2018

Extension of copyright protection periods; development of regulations concerning technological usage restriction measures; and certain copyright infringements made subject to prosecution without the need for a formal complaint by the injured person or right holder

With eyes to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) going into effect, domestic laws were modified. The Copyright Act underwent various revisions, notably (1) copyright protection periods were as a general rule extended to 70 years; (2) technological measures that restrict usage of copyrighted items, etc. (access control) became protected while acts aimed at circumventing such measures were deemed to be infringements; and (3) certain acts of copyright infringement were made subject to prosecution without the need for a formal complaint by the injured person or right holder. The TPP went into effect in December 2019 as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Furthermore, the Unfair Competition Prevention Act was revised in 2019. Specifically, revisions included (1) protecting access control set for game software saved data, etc.; as well as (2) regulating the provision of devices or programs for circumventing access control for the purpose of changing saved data as well as the provision of circumvention services; (3) regulating actions to illegally provide identification codes (serial codes, etc.) necessary for using business software, etc.; and (4) adjusting access control definitions in accordance with actual situations. The Copyright Act also underwent similar revisions.

Subsequently, a “proxy” modifying saved game data on behalf of a client and a company providing “modification tools” for changing data were arrested for infringement of these laws. Moreover, the seller of illegal product keys disabling business software licensing authentication via internet auctions was also detected and exposed. In addition to disseminating information about the changes to the relevant laws, ACCS cooperated in the first arrest to take place following the legal revisions, issuing notices regarding the “proxy” and product key provider, as well as conducting fact-finding surveys and technological verifications.

2016

History of ACCS

- ▶ Begins working with the National Institute of Technology as a copyright adviser
- ▶ Executive Director Kubota becomes a specially appointed professor at the Intellectual Property Center, YAMAGUCHI UNIVERSITY

2017

2018

2019

2020

Revision of the Copyright Act, etc.

- ▶ Copyright protection periods extended; regulations concerning technological usage restriction measures implemented; certain copyright infringements made subject to prosecution without the need for a formal complaint by the injured person or right holder. [Pick Up](#)
- ▶ Unfair Competition Prevention Act revised (regulations related to technological restriction measures are strengthened)
- ▶ The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) goes into effect

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of illegal uploading via “Haruka-yume-no-ato” [Pick Up](#)

- ▶ Provides support in the arrest of operators of a game bar illegally screening videos [Pick Up](#)

- ▶ Flexible rights restriction regulations implemented

- ▶ Provides support for the detection and exposure of illegal uploading via “Manga-mura” [Pick Up](#)
- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of the first case of modification of saved data by proxy in infringement of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of corporations providing tools for modifying saved data

Support of measures against infringement

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of sales of more than 100 million yen in pirated items on shopping sites

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- ▶ Provides support for the detection and exposure of illegal uploading via “Manga-mura” [Pick Up](#)
- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of the first case of modification of saved data by proxy in infringement of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of corporations providing tools for modifying saved data

- ▶ Provides support in the detection and exposure of corporations providing tools for modifying saved data

Changes in infringement crimes

Use of content via illegal means/methods

Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers

Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers

Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers

Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers

Illegal uploading misusing overseas servers

Pick Up 2018

Provision of support in the arrest of operators of a game bar illegally screening videos

In this case, the operator of a so-called “game bar”—an eating/drinking establishment where video game devices and software for home use are used for business purposes by making them available for customers to play with, thereby screening the videos without authorization—was arrested. ACCS alerted the game bar operator to the infringement, sending them a warning letter jointly with the copyright owners. However, the unauthorized video screenings continued, indicating malicious business operations, and so it was decided to take criminal action.

Pick Up 2019

Conclusion of an agreement with the Japan Federation of Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialists Associations and Yamaguchi University regarding comprehensive cooperation on raising public awareness of copyright

In May 2019, the Japan Federation of Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialists Associations, Yamaguchi University, and ACCS concluded an agreement regarding comprehensive cooperation on raising public awareness of copyright with the aim of carrying out educational activities nationwide in coordination with certified administrative procedures legal specialists who are active in each region. While promoting human resources training and development of educational materials, we presented symposiums aimed at educators as well as lectures and workshops for educational institutions, explaining why copyright education is so important and about respect for intellectual property in addition to conveying information about the Copyright Act.

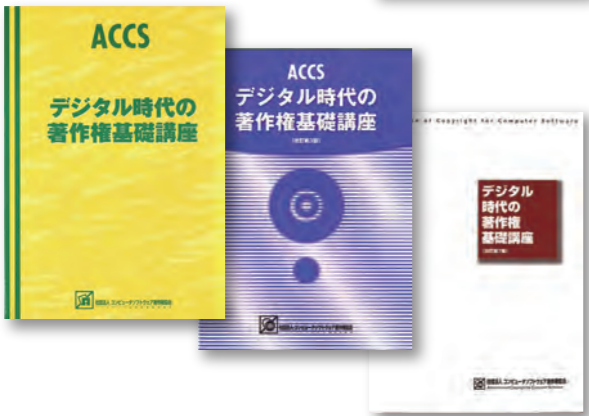
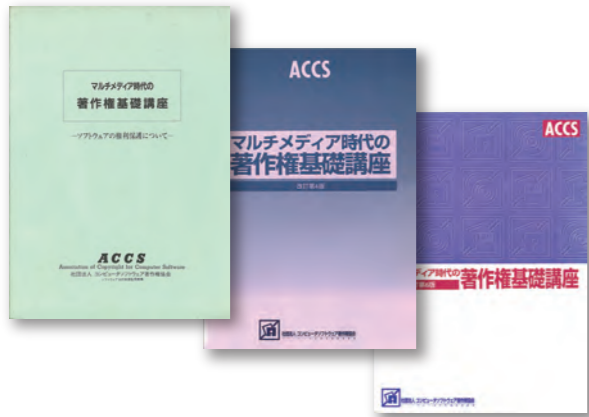
Pick Up 2019

Provision of support for the detection and exposure of illegal uploading using “Manga-mura”

In this case, manga were illegally uploaded to the Internet between July and September 2019 using the “Manga-mura” website, which enabled manga to be illegally uploaded and read free of charge, and those who uploaded the manga and the site operator of “Manga-mura” were arrested. Using overseas servers, “Manga-mura” was a large-scale illegal website that was accessed 600 million times in 6 months at its peak. ACCS worked in cooperation with members and investigative organizations.

Publications

Copyright-related textbooks that have been published by ACCS.



Fliers/booklets

Reminders

ACCS prepares and distributes reminders regarding the illegality of copyright infringements that have caused major problems in order to draw attention to proper use of copyrighted items.



1989 1989 1991



1994 1998 1999



2004 2007 2008



2011 2017 2019

Software asset management (SAM)

These publications are formulated and distributed with the aim of preventing illegal copying within companies, schools, or other organizations as well as promoting cross-the-board implementation of software management.



1990 1994 1999 2001 2001 2001 2005

*Years shown are the years of publication.

General Education

These publications are prepared and distributed for a broad general readership with the aim of diffusing and providing education about copyrights and information ethics.



1990 1993 1997 2001 2001 2002



2003 2004 2004 2005 2005 2006



2008 2010



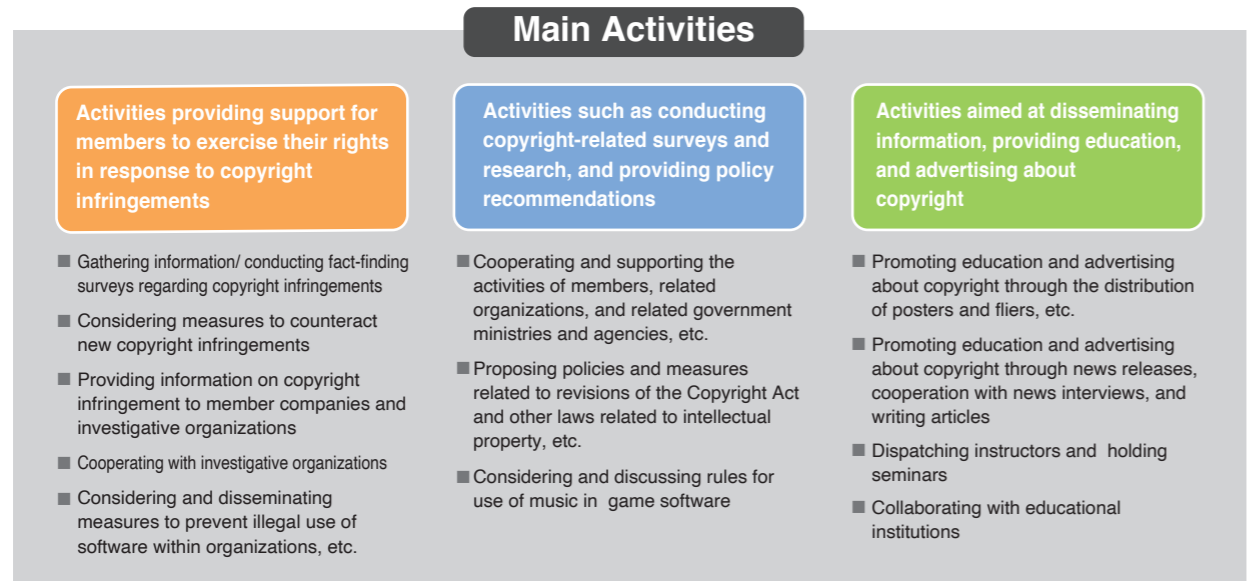
A2 poster

2005

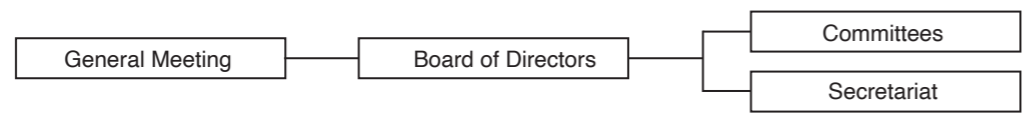
*Years shown are the years of publication.

About ACCS

ACCS is a corporation that was established with the purpose of protecting the rights of the owners of copyright for copyrighted items that have been digitalized, such as computer software, as well as conducting activities aimed at diffusing information and educating the general public about copyright and contributing to cultural development in society.



Organization of ACCS

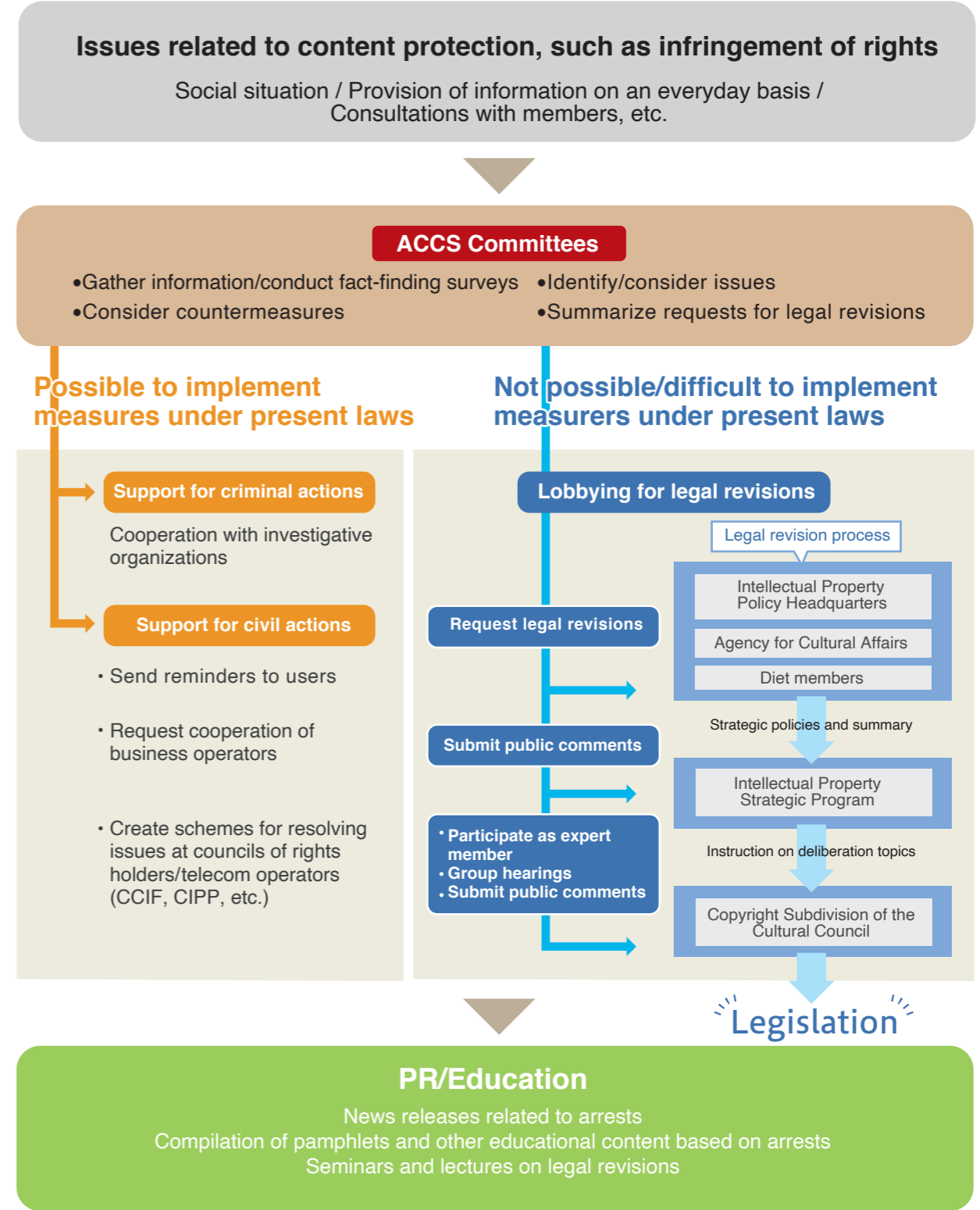


ACCS Committees

Year	Operations	Infringement Countermeasures	Legal Affairs	Dissemination of Information/Educational Activities
1993				
1995				
1996	Committee on General Multimedia-related Issues			
1997				
1998				
1999				
2000		Committee on Network Infringement-related Issues	Committee on Game-related Issues	
2001				
2002		Committee on Measures against Illegal Copying within Organizations	Committee on Multimedia-related Legal Affairs	Committee on Software Security Issues
2003				
2004		Committee on Measures against Overseas Issues	Committee on Network Music-related Issues	Committee on the Promotion of Information Ethics in Schools
2005				
2006		Committee on General Network-related Issues	Committee on Music-related Issues	Committee on the Promotion of Digital Information Protection Technology
2007				
2008				
2009				
2010				
2011				
2012				
2013	Steering committee			
2014		Committee on Measures against Infringements	Committee on Legal and General Affairs	Committee on Public Relations
2015		The purpose of this committee is to efficiently and intensively consider and formulate infringement countermeasures in light of the ever-increasing number and complexity of copyright infringements.	The purpose of this committee is to carefully observe trends in deliberations on legal revisions, such as revisions of the intellectual property legal system, and consider issues, survey laws and regulations, and provide policy recommendations so that the effectiveness of the measures against copyright infringements implemented by ACCS can be ensured.	The purpose of this committee is to ensure consistency of information disseminated by ACCS (messages, opinions, etc.), providing education about copyright by ensuring that information effectively reaches its target audience.
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				

At ACCS, we believe that balance between “Implementation of laws and excising of rights” , “Dissemination/education” , and “Protection through technological methods” is essential in order to realize a society in which not only copyright but all intellectual property rights are protected appropriately, and we carry out a diversity of activities accordingly.

Flow of Activities

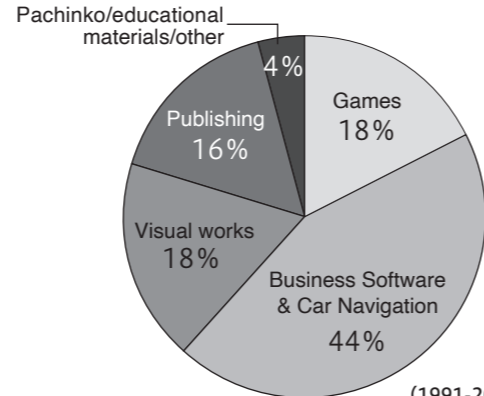


Performance providing support for criminal cases by infringement situation

Sale of pirated items not using the Internet (street vendors, direct mail, etc.)	46
Sale of pirated items using the Internet (personal computer communication, auctions, websites, etc.)	386
Illegal uploading using file-sharing software (P2P)	212
Illegal uploading other than that using P2P (servers, video-sharing websites, etc.)	78
Unauthorized rentals	45
Other (illegal video screening, use of pirated items for business purposes, infringement of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act, etc.)	54
Total	821

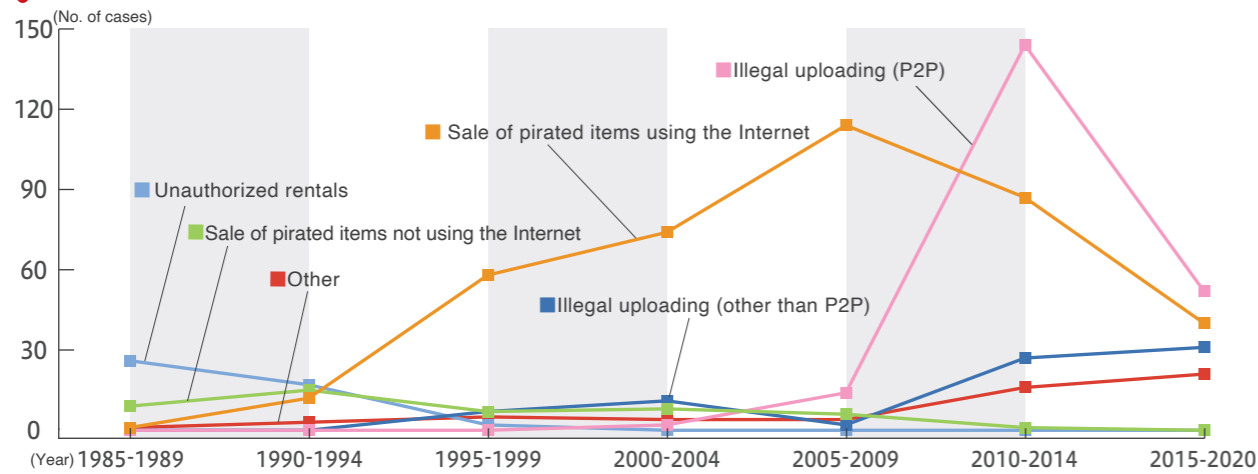
(1985-2020)

Number of criminal cases supported by software content



(1991-2020)

Trends in the number of criminal cases supported by infringement situation



Support for measures against illegal copying within organization

Performance

Total no. of cases in which information was provided	3,512cases
Total no. of cases settled	1,060cases
Total settlement amount	11,319,598,431yen
Total settlement amount	10,648,729yen

(1997-2019)

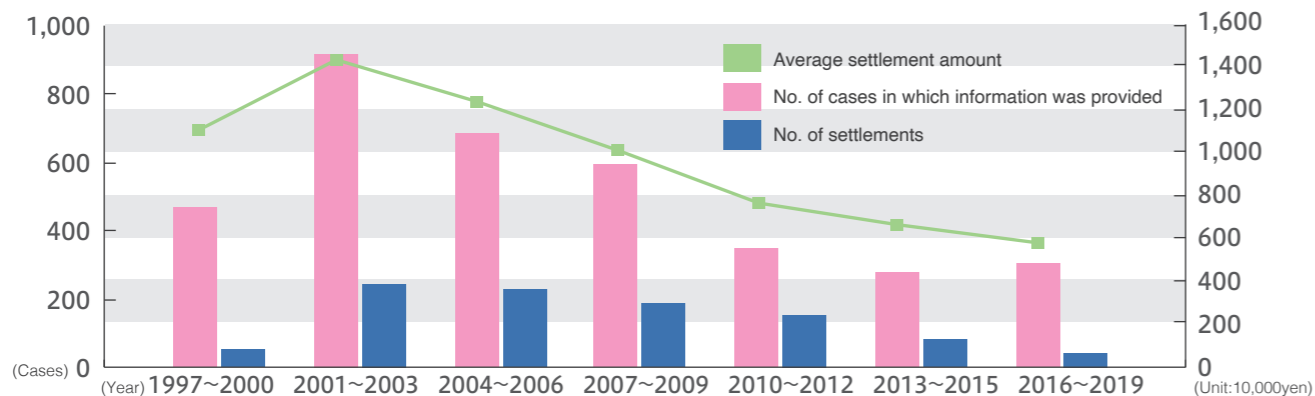
Dispatch of instructors

Number of dispatchments

Lecture/class location	School/education-related institution	National government ministry or agency/Local government body/Organization	Companies	Total
Number of dispatchments	868	487	317	1,672

(1990-2019)

Support in measures against illegal copying within organization: Trends in information provision, settlements, and average settlement amount



ACCS 30th Anniversary Commemorative Publication "the 30th Anniversary"

Published: September 12, 2020

Association of Copyright for Computer Software

5F Tomonari Foresight Bldg., 5-40-18 Otsuka, Bunkyo City, Tokyo 112-0012.
 phone:03-5976-5175 fax:03-5976-5177
 ACCS Web <https://www2.accsjp.or.jp/>

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 Printer: DAIICHI PRINTING CO., LTD.



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5F Tomonari Foresight Bldg., 5-40-18 Otsuka,
Bunkyo City, Tokyo 112-0012.