

A Proposal to Apply the Procedure of Disclosing Administrative Documents in Information Education

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One of the purposes of the high school subject “Information” is stated in the courses of study: “to enable students to understand the current situation wherein a flood of information is disclosed and communicated within society; the need to protect information; and the problems arising in the course of collection and emission of information, including individual responsibilities.”

A detailed explanation for such courses of study further establishes that they are intended “to enable students to understand the situation of the national government, local governments, and companies when information is disclosed to the public and the cautions to bear in mind when using such information.”

Despite the above descriptions, the subject taught in high schools is limited to the collection of information through network systems.

The process for collecting information from national and local governments or from quasi-government bodies, for instance is not dealt with.

In light of our belief that collecting raw information from government bodies is invaluable for developing a healthy democratic society, in this paper, we would like to introduce the process of requesting the following: (1) disclosure of public information held by government bodies, (2) the categories of information (disclosed or not disclosed), (3) the algorithm from which the disclosed information is determined, (4) the measures to challenge the decision of non-disclosure, and (5) concrete examples of using such process. Finally, we would like to discuss the ways in which we may utilize the public information disclosure system in our information education program.