論文要旨説明書

報告論文のタイトル：Exploring a better design of copyright law

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論文要旨（800 字から 1200 字、英文の場合は 300 から 450 語）

This paper proposes a theoretical framework to explore how copyright law should be designed to improve social welfare. The copyright protection is controlled by length and breadth. The length is the terms of copyright protection, and the breadth is the amount of a protected work that can be freely used or copied for other creators' new works (e.g., fair-use). The length and breadth affect not only creators' revenues from selling copies and derivative works of protected works but also the costs of creation because the stock of past works including other creators' ones is the source of creating new works.

A model is provided to examine the effects of changes in copyright design on social welfare, which is defined as the sum of creators' profits and consumers' surpluses. In the model, demand for a work is stochastic, taking zero or a positive constant value. Stock of past works with positive market values can contribute to reduce the cost of a new creation, depending on the extent of copyright protection for those past works. The model describes the stochastic process of the accumulation of works' stock. Instead of analytically solving for the optimal length and breadth, however, the effects of changes in copyright design are examined by numerical simulation. A simulation approach is used because creators' decision making, which is modeled as the choice of the number of new works in each period, is not recursive: the cost of creating new works depends on time due to finite length of copyright protection for past works.

The simulation is run under the following four sets of copyright design: (i) long and broad, (ii) long and narrow, (iii) short and broad, and (iv) short and narrow. The simulation results show that on average, a change in the length of copyright protection has a marginal effect on social welfare. On the other hand, a change in the breadth of copyright protection has a significant effect on social welfare, which is larger when copyright protection is broad.