

Update:

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Concerning the Wheeler article, "Examining whether private companies reproducing Japanese university entrance exams comply with copyright guidelines. 2016;7:1-5," the author would like to provide a brief update. In the article, the author described how he had written a passage appearing on a university entrance exam, and indicated just below the passage that he was the author. His objective in this study was to ascertain whether companies reproducing the exams would be in contact with him, requesting permission to use his work. The majority of the companies studied in the article did not do so. The author briefly noted that perhaps this was because the passage appeared to be written solely for the exam, was therefore property of the university (rather than the author) and his permission was considered unnecessary. At the time of the article's publication, the author expressed his doubts about this and questioned whether companies were always consistently reaching out to authors whose works appeared in exams. However, it has since been conveyed to him that because the passage had not been published before the exam (nor has it been published anywhere since), and in fact was composed for the purpose of the exam, it was not necessary for the companies reproducing the exams to receive his permission for reuse. Some companies have since been in contact with the author concerning use of exam material, to which he is appreciative, but it appears this is a courtesy on the part of the companies and not actually mandatory. The author feels this new information makes questionable his overall conclusion that companies may at times be inconsistent about contacting authors, because it was based on the lack of company contact concerning the piece he wrote for the exam. He believes that companies reproducing exams are at present very likely diligent about getting in touch with authors whose previously published works appear on university entrance exams.

Additionally, a sentence appearing on page 5 was somewhat poorly worded. Instead of writing that a request for universities to cite previously published material used on their entrance exams "has been largely ignored," the author should have written that this request was "seemingly mostly unsuccessful."

Finally, the author suggested in the article that companies reproducing exams could possibly initially procure them via purchase from those who had completed the exams. This was based on information obtained during a previous discussion with an official associated with university admissions processes. Other university teachers later voiced their agreement with this.

However, the author doubts that this presently occurs (if, in fact, it ever even did in the first place).