

ABSTRACT

The present invention improves the convenience by increasing the degree of freedom in shifting of a paper feed rack with a continuous feed function.

5 A collator according to one embodiment feeds out one by one paper sheets stacked on each of three or more paper feed racks arranged in a vertical direction, by using a plurality of feed-out mechanisms to a common conveyance path, and further includes detectors , feed-out control
10 means , setting change means . The detectors detect the absence of paper sheets stacked on the paper feed racks. The feed-out control means operates a feed-out mechanism correlated with a paper feed rack having a valid setting, out of the plurality of paper feed racks, in a manner so
15 that the paper sheets fed out by this particular feed-out mechanism overlap with the paper sheets fed out by another feed-out mechanism on the common conveyance path. The setting change means cancels a valid setting of a paper feed rack on which a detector has detected the absence of
20 paper sheets, and if this particular paper feed rack has a setting of continuous feed, changes a setting to a valid setting for a predetermined paper feed rack out of a paper feed rack adjacent to this particular paper feed rack and a paper feed rack that is not adjacent.