

ABSTRACT

An image reading apparatus high in illumination efficiency which can illuminate an image reading position by use of at least one polarizing element is disclosed.

5 The image reading apparatus can illuminate an object to be image read sufficiently, even if the object is floated away from a predetermined image reading position. In the image reading apparatus, the major illumination light L2 from an illumination unit 1 and the light L2 reflected
10 from the object and then introduced onto light-electricity transducing elements are located on substantially the same plane, and further the polarizing elements 2 and 3 are interposed between the illumination unit 1 and the object 20 and between the object 20 and
15 the light-electricity transducing elements 7, respectively.

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