

Copyright Office Modernization

Quick Facts – December 2020

Copyright Office modernization is the initiative to reimagine the entire Office by

- 1 building a new enterprise IT system designed to be more flexible and easy for users to use,**
- 2 modernizing supporting IT systems, and**
- 3 further ensuring that Office practices and processes are efficient and productive.**

We have been working on a number of modernization activities this quarter:

ECS Development

The Enterprise Copyright System (ECS) will integrate and improve all of the Office's technology systems. Currently, the ECS's development involves applications for recordation, registration, public records, and licensing. The Office:

- Continued to add more users and organizations to the recordation pilot program (which launched in April 2020) and planned additional waves of new pilot participants in the coming year.
- Recorded over 500 documents through the recordation pilot system since its launch.
- Added functionality in the recordation pilot to support non-English section 205 documents through the pilot system.
- Released the new Copyright Public Record System pilot to the public on December 15, 2020. Among the new features are simple and advanced searching capabilities, the ability to filter and facet records, and a web interface consistent with other ECS portals.
- Continued registration development work on internal components required to support end-to-end processing of registration application packages. Work also progressed on the creation of a clickable prototype for the Standard Application. The clickable prototype will undergo continuous testing with different user groups, providing the development team with the ability to adjust based on the feedback.
- Continued designing a set of common technical capabilities needed to support recordation, registration, licensing, the public record, and future ECS products. Examples of these capabilities include messaging, correspondence, payment, and financial services.

Historical Public Records

The Copyright Office continued to work on improving access to public records. The Office:

- Partnered with FEDLINK to award a contract (September 2020) to start a major effort to digitize more than 26,000 record books to make them available online.
- Continued to provide online access to historical copyright card catalog records via the Virtual Card Catalog (VCC). The Copyright Office is working to improve the optical character recognition (OCR) metadata through a metadata cleanup effort to improve searchability.

Data Management Initiative

In order to advance its data management efforts, the Office:

- Prepared the initial internal dashboards for registration (which receives data from eCO) and recordation (which receives data from the recordation pilot) allowing for greater reporting and data driven insights.
- Worked on a newly awarded data mapping contract that will unify and standardize data across Historical Public Records and the modernized Copyright Public Records System.

Other Efforts

The Copyright Office undertook other efforts to improve its processes. The Office:

- Moved the Copyright Deposit Copies Storage Unit from the Landover Center Annex to a new 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art warehouse facility in Cabin Branch, Maryland, in less than forty-five days, capping off phase 1 of a three-phase consolidation project.
- Partnered with the GSA Center of Excellence for Contact Centers to perform a needs assessment and gap analysis, develop a future state roadmap, and define a strategy in support of contact center service delivery and technology modernization.
- Began an eCO upgrade to remedy known compatibility issues and to ensure continued operation. This upgrade is not related to modernization, but it helps sustain the existing legacy system until modernization solutions are fully operational.

Outreach

The Copyright Office continues to keep the public informed about our progress. In addition to these Quick Facts sheets, the Office produced two bimonthly webinars this quarter: the December 2020 webinar discussed the recordation pilot and the October webinar discussed the warehouse move.

Please contact us at askcmo@copyright.gov to ask questions, share insights, and to learn about opportunities. To participate in the recordation pilot, please contact recordation-pilot@copyright.gov.