



Copyright Office Modernization

Quick Facts – March 2020

The Copyright Office is modernizing, which means that we are **1** building a new Enterprise Copyright System (ECS) featuring a user-centered and flexible design, **2** streamlining processes and policies, **3** improving access, and **4** reimagining the entire Office.

There are several major efforts in modernization:

Developing the ECS

The ECS will automate Office workflows and serve as the online public interface to the Copyright Office. Currently, the ECS's three main development focus areas are recordation, registration, and system of public record, all of which are ongoing. The Office:

- Initiated work on the design of a set of common technical capabilities needed to support recordation, registration, the public record, licensing, and future ECS products. Examples of these capabilities include messaging and correspondence, payment, and the financial services responsible for maintaining existing services.
- Published a supplemental interim rule amending the Office's regulations governing recordation of transfers of copyright ownership, notices of termination, and other documents pertaining to a copyright. The rule supplemented the Office's current interim recordation regulations in anticipation of the Office's forthcoming pilot program through which certain remitters will be able to submit certain types of recordation related documents online.
- Continued development on a limited registration prototype. Starting in April 2020, the full registration system will build upon the foundation and information obtained from the previous effort.
- Continued iteration on the ECS design system, which comprises design of user-optimized components such as page layouts, font sizes, and color.

- Initiated work on a request for information (RFI) from industry on creative contracting capabilities for ECS development. An interagency agreement between the Library of Congress and the General Services Administration supports this work.

Comprehensive Access to Public Records

The Copyright Office continues to work on improving access to public records by:

- Facilitating online access to historical public records, both those housed within legacy systems and those not easily accessible to the public online. The Office is in the process of converting the extensive, paper-based pre-1978 entries into a digital format to make them accessible and searchable online.
- Digitizing more than 26,000 record books. These images are being scanned to extract metadata to enable a robust search. The Office continues to perform quality assurance for these images. This is a multiyear effort.
- Initiating work on the new Public Records application. Among the new features are searching capabilities, the ability to view relationships between records, and a web interface consistent with other ECS portals. The Public Records application will eventually house copyright public records from current systems, legacy systems, and future ECS systems. The initial proof of concept is anticipated in fall 2020.

Data Management Initiative

Data management continues to be an important focus of the Copyright Office's modernization efforts. The Office advanced its efforts by:

- Preparing proof-of-concept dashboards for several Copyright Office business areas to begin building an Office-wide business intelligence and analytics capability.
- Continuing to develop a data migration plan to determine the data flow from various sources to the ECS system.

Outreach

It is important that the Copyright Office continually keeps the public informed about our progress. In addition to these Quick Facts sheets, the Office has engaged in the following outreach efforts by:

- Continuing a bimonthly webinar series to keep the public up to date. The first webinar was held on January 31, 2019. The February 2020 webinar, the seventh in the series, discussed the business intelligence (BI) tools that will provide insight into the Office's operations.

Please contact us at askcmo@copyright.gov for more information or to get involved.