

Copyright Office Modernization

Quick Facts – September 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:

Developing the ECS

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

- Started 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, correspondence, payment, and financial services.
- Added new users to the limited recordation pilot, which was launched in April. The Office has recorded over 120 documents through the pilot system. Pilot participants are a representative group of users, and the Office will continue to add new participants in waves.
- Added functionality in the recordation pilot to support redacted Section 205 documents through the pilot system. The Office will continue to build and introduce new features throughout the pilot period.
- Began registration development work on internal components required to support end-to-end processing of registration application packages. Work has also begun on the creation of a clickable prototype for the Standard Application, which will undergo continuous testing with different groups of users to give the development team the ability to adjust based on feedback.
- Continued work on the new Public Record Pilot. 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.

The Public Record pilot will eventually integrate pre-1978 records into a modern interface. The Office anticipates an initial public release in the fall of 2020.

- Continued development on the ECS design system, which comprises user-optimized components.

Comprehensive Access to Public Records

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

- Digitizing more than 26,000 record books to make them available online. The Office partnered with FEDLINK to award a contract on 9/15/20 to begin this effort.
- Providing online access to historical copyright card catalog records via the Virtual Card Catalog (VCC). The Copyright Office is collaborating with the Library's Office of Chief Information Office to integrate perfected VCC metadata to improve searchability.

Data Management Initiative

The Office advanced its efforts by:

- Implementing a fully functional business intelligence tool.
- Preparing initial internal dashboards for registration and recordation with data integrated from eCO, which will allow for greater reporting and data-driven insights.
- Working on a newly awarded data mapping contract that will unify and standardize data across Historical Public Records and the modernizing Copyright Public Record System.
- Continuing to provide guidance for a data migration plan to determine the data flow from various sources to the ECS system.

Other Efforts

The Copyright Office undertook other efforts to improve its processes, including:

- Constructing a new 40,000 square foot warehouse in October. The Office will move deposits out of multiple facilities to centrally locate them in a state-of-the-art facility. The new facility will allow the Office to maintain control over all copyright deposits in a single facility, to improve retrieval times and better serve the public. The Office is also investigating a warehouse management system to further enhance the inventory, tracking, and management of all items.

Outreach

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

- The July Public Forum covered overarching modernization progress and announced the creation of a Public Stakeholder Working Group. The Office will be issuing guidance later this calendar year on how the process will be initiated.

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