Historical Public Records Program Update

Copyright Office Modernization Webinar Series
August 31, 2021

The webinar will begin promptly at noon eastern time
SUBMITTING QUESTIONS

To submit a question, use the Q&A dialog box in the lower right corner. You may submit a question during any portion of this webinar; however, questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.

Please note: we may not be able to answer all questions received in the allotted time. Thank you.
INTRODUCTION

Shira Perlmutter
Register of Copyrights and
Director of the United States Copyright Office
INTRODUCTION AND SPEAKERS

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Digitization Manager, Office of Copyright Records, U.S. Copyright Office
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS (HPR)

Presentation Agenda

- Challenge
- Program Goals
- Program Strategy
- Projects and Activities
  - Record Book Digitization
  - Card Catalog Metadata Perfection
What is the challenge we are addressing?

- Analog records 1870–1977 are hard to access and search, and the risk of physical deterioration is increasing.
  - 41.5 million catalog cards
  - 26,278 record books
  - 674 volumes of the Catalog of Copyright Entries (CCEs)
  - 23,000 microfilm reels

- Geographic and physical access limitations.

- For any particular historical copyright record, there maybe several artifacts, in multiple formats, that together provide the complete copyright history.

- To obtain the most complete information, the artifacts should be used in combination.
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – GOALS

• Provide online access to U.S. copyright public records not currently available online.
• Improve access by making the records easily searchable and widely available to the public.
• Provide for the preservation of these historical & cultural records through digitization.
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – STRATEGY

- Expand access to records in increments.
- Prioritize online access to records that are still under copyright protection.
- Create a permanent historical copy to ensure integrity of the records.
- Align the effort with the development of a comprehensive public record.
- Establish a continual improvement that can incorporate new tools & techniques.
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – STRATEGY

- Execute pilots and proofs of concept to reduce risks and address unknowns.
- Deliver functionality based on feedback from stakeholders and users.
- Seek partnerships and non-traditional resources to complete portions of the effort.
- Place emphasis on ease of use, quality of content, & accuracy of data.
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Completed Activities
• Digitized Cards
• Virtual Card Catalog (VCC)
  Proof of Concept Website

Current Projects (*)
• Record Books
  • Digitization
  • Preview Digital Collection
• Card Catalog Data Perfection
  • Data Perfection Extraction
  • Data Mapping Initiative

Future Projects/Activities
• Record Books: Metadata Extraction
• Microfilm Digitization and Metadata Extraction
• Integration - ECS Copyright Public Records System

(*) Catalog of Copyright Entries (CCEs) metadata extraction - NYPL
Overview

• A multi-year project to create searchable digital images of pre-1978 copyright records.
• Total collection size is 26,278 volumes from 1870–1977, which contain an estimated 26,278,000 pages.
• Books include registrations, renewals, assignments, notices of use of musical compositions, and other related records, including patent records and patent examiner indices from 1870–1940.
• Many of the works are still under copyright protection.
• First online phase focus on volume level access; second phase provide record-level access via ECS Copyright Public Records System.
HISTORICAL RECORD BOOKS DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Project Status

• One of the largest Library digitization efforts.

• Since March 2021, the contractor has digitized to Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI) 3* images for over 500 books (and counting).

• Finalizing “preview” of a digitized version of the record books to be available on loc.gov.
HISTORICAL RECORD BOOKS DIGITIZATION PROJECT

In Pictures
HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Preview of collection being developed as an online digital collection

In development – Not final version
CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

Overview

• Goal is to create enhanced searchable metadata to enable users remotely locate and access the direct card catalog images.
• Building off of existing Virtual Card Catalog (VCC) proof of concept.
• Future integration and availability through CPRS.

Project Status and Next Steps

• Perfected metadata fields and examples.
• Enable efficient access to records based on prioritizing data fields most used in searches.
• Integration with ECS Copyright Public Records System.
The VCC Proof of Concept was released in 2019.

The VCC represents card records, displayed in JPEG images, from the U.S. Copyright Card Catalog collection.

Images of cards from 1870 through 1977 are available online and are presented in a similar filing order as found in the physical card catalog.
CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

Metadata Fields for Application Cards

- Registration Number
- Title of Work
- Author
- Claimant
- Application Received Date
- Affidavit Received Date
- Fee Received Date
- Deposit Received Date
- First Published Date
- Publisher Name
- Work Type
CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

Application Image; OCR Text from VCC

Name of copyright owner .Margar-tA..ALrellsol3 (Write full legal name of copyright owner)
(2) Address 2910 Brnywi-ne, N.V. g iga .J. (Street) (City) - (State)
(3) Name of author or translator MlagaratNAorienson-Isandon-
(4) Country of which the author is a citizen United States...
... (Must be stated)
(5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where
state where (6) Title of book --AADTH IGO -SIA-------- --
- AI ~ ciA 81540---
<Card Name="CC19381945A181100-181799.0441a.jpg" LinkToImageURL="https://cdn.loc.gov/service/copyright/hprcatcard/19/38/19/45/A1/81/10/0-18/17/99/19381945A181100-181799/CC19381945A181100-181799.0441a.jpg"> 
<Fulltext> 
<Date>Date</Date>  
<Date>Name of copyright owner Margaret Mortenson Landon</Date>  
<Date>Address 2910 Brandywine, N.W., Washington, DC</Date>  
<Date>Name of author or translator Margaret Mortenson Landon</Date>  
<Date>Country of which the author is a citizen* United States</Date>  
<Date>Title of book ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM</Date>  
<Date>© Cl A 181540</Date>  
<Date>Application rec'd JUL -1 1944</Date>  
<Date>Affidavit rec'd JUL -1 1944</Date>  
<Date>2 c. rec'd June-5, 1944</Date>  
<Date>$2 Fee rec'd DEPOSIT ACCOUNT</Date>  
<Date>First published on the 29th day of June, 1944</Date>  
<Date>Send certificate of registration to THE JOHN DAY COMPANY</Date>  
<Date>Name and address of person or firm sending the fee THE JOHN DAY COMPANY</Date>  
<Date>Name and address of person or firm sending the fee THE JOHN DAY COMPANY</Date>  
</Fulltext> 
</Card> 

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<Authors> 
<Author>Margaret Mortenson Landon</Author> 
</Authors> 
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</Claimants> 
<br> 
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>TitleOfWork>ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM</TitleOfWork> 
<WorkType>BOOK</WorkType>
said book WAS PUBLISHED on the day of June, 1944, that the binding of the said book has been printed within the limits of the United States by Van Rey at New York, N.Y. (City) (Signature of person making affidavit) Subscribed and sworn to the day of 1944. NOTARIAL SEAL.

Copyright law makes use of ...
State of New York
County of New York
(2) duly authorized agent or representative Caroline S. Lehman
entitled ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM
printed by Van Rees Press
(City) New York, NY (State)
printing process by Van Rees Press
(City) New York, NY (State)
completed on the 9th day of May, 1944
PUBLISHED on the 29th day of June, 1944
binding by Van
(City) New York, NY (State)
before me this 29th day of June, 1944

FirstPublishedDate: 1944-06-29
PublisherName: Van Rees Press
TitleOfWork: ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM
WorkType: book
PUBLISHED on the date stated herein are herewith deposited to secure copyright registration, accompanied by the AFFI-DAVIT required by section 16 of the Act of March 4, 1909, that the book has been produced in accordance with the manufacturing provisions specified in section 15 of the said Act. $2 (statutory fee for registration and certificate) is also enclosed. The copyright is claimed by:

(1) Name of copyright owner
(2) Address
(3) Name of author
(4) Country of which the author is a citizen (Must be stated)
(5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where
(6) Title of book

IMPORTANT.-Applicant must not write in the blank lines above, to do so will cause delay in Copyright Office.

First published on the - 1f .~ day of 19A. (State here the day, month, and year when the work was placed on sale, sold, or published distributed. Must
Date

Name of copyright owner: Sisters of Loretto

Address: Loretto College El Paso Texas

Name of author: Mother Genovena Ansom

Country of which the author is a citizen: United States of America

If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where: 

Title of book: Mother Delomey

2 c. rec’d Mar. 20, 1939

Application rec’d June 22, 1939

Affidavit rec’d June 22, 1939

© Cl A 129355

Fee rec’d $2.00 30545 May 11, 1939

First published on the 10th day of February, 1938

Send certificate of registration to Sisters of Loretto

Loretto College El Paso Texas

Name and address of person or firm sending the fee: Sister M. Ignation

131 [La?rel] St., Manchester. New Hampshire

APR 20

CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

Associated XML

<Card Name="CC19381945A_128900-129599.0456a.jpg" LinkToImageURL="https://cdn.loc.gov/service/copyright/hprcatcard/19/38/19/45/A_/12/89/00-1/29/59/9/19381945A_128900-129599/CC19381945A_128900-129599.0456a.jpg">

<Date></Date>

<Name of copyright owner> Sisters of Loretto </Name of copyright owner>

<Address> Loretto College El Paso Texas </Address>

<Name of author> Mother Genovena Ansom </Name of author>

<Country of which the author is a citizen> United States of America </Country of which the author is a citizen>

<If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where></If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where>

<Title of book> Mother Delomey </Title of book>

2 c. rec’d Mar. 20, 1939

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© Cl A 129355</© Cl A 129355>

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131 [La?rel] St., Manchester. New Hampshire

<DepositReceivedDate>1939-03-20</DepositReceivedDate>

<FeeDate>1938-05-11</FeeDate>

<FirstPublishedDate>1938-02-10</FirstPublishedDate>

<RegistrationNumber>A 129355</RegistrationNumber>

<RecordType>Registration</RecordType>

<WorkType>BOOK</WorkType>

</Card>
that applies Failure to do so will County of - cause delay )Sbeing duly sworn, depose, - - - - - { d o so lem n ly affirmJ(2) duly
author ed agent or representative residmng and say. That I am the
in the United States of the claimant of copy the book entitled:
right inl further depose and say that such book, for which registration is
requested has been punted in the United States, by __ ___ -4-
LLLQf&quot;a4e.. ---&amp;#39;&amp;#39;n (Name of establishment)at Q (1)
from type set (npa+ e -(City) (State) 1TL _jjie S~.Lye set) within the
limits of the United States, or Q (2) I, hL-o-hgr ~ L~gr~n m(Name f
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textat (City) &amp;#39; , (S(ate)of the said book was completed on the-
q - day of -. 19_; that the said book WAS PUBLISHED on the day of
- _____ _ - _, 19.f;p.p.that the binding of the said book has been
performed within the limits of the Un ed States by- (e of estabil-
ment)(City) / (Ste)____(Signture of
State of New Hampshire
County of Hillsboro
(2) duly authorized agent or representative Sister M. Ignation entitled Mother Delomey.
registration is requested
printed by Granite-State Press
(City) (State)
printing process by Granite-State Press
(City) Manchester, (State) New Hampshire
(PUBLISHED on the 10th day of February, 1938)
(binding by New Hampshire Bindery)
(City) Concord, (State) New Hampshire
(before me this 19th day of June, 1939)

PUBLISHED on the 10th day of February, 1938
binding by New Hampshire Bindery
(City) Concord, (State) New Hampshire
(before me this 19th day of June, 1939)

1938-02-10
Granite-State Press
Registration
Mother Delomey
book
FUTURE PROJECTS

• Launch of the Record Books Collection Preview on loc.gov
• Record Books: Metadata Extraction
• Microfilm Digitization and Metadata Extraction
• ECS Copyright Public Records System (publicrecords.copyright.gov)
Questions?

To submit a question, use the Q&A dialog box in the lower right corner.

Please note: we may not be able to answer all questions received in the allotted time. Thank you.
Learn More

For More Information
copyright.gov/copyright-modernization

Send Questions To
modernization@copyright.gov