

Copyright Notices

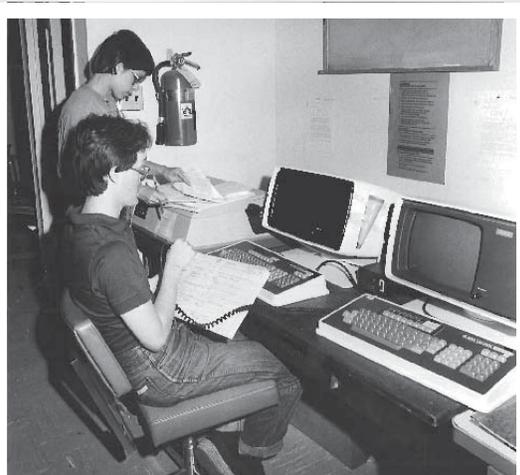
August 2006

Pictures from the Past: Celebrating the Copyright Office in Its Former Locations

JUDITH NIERMAN

On the occasion of the Copyright Office's 2006 move to Crystal City, Va., *Copyright Notices* has assembled a photo history of the Office in its past locations. *Copyright Notices's* photo files, together with pictures from the Prints and Photographs Division, present an interesting and sometimes nostalgic view into the places the Office has called home from the 19th to the 21st century.

Enjoy this album presentation of pictures from the past, together with selected text taken largely from previous issues of *Copyright Notices*. ©





Time Line of Locations of the Office and Names of Buildings

- ◆ **July 8, 1870:** Copyright centralized in the Library of Congress. Both the Library and the Copyright Office were then located in the Capitol Building.
- ◆ **1897:** First Register of Copyrights is appointed. The Office moves into newly constructed Library of Congress Building, now called the Thomas Jefferson Building.
- ◆ **1939:** Copyright Office moves into the newly completed structure then called the Annex or the Thomas Jefferson Building, but now called the Adams Building.
- ◆ **1969:** Copyright Office moves to Crystal City Mall in Crystal City, Virginia.
- ◆ **1980:** Copyright Office moves to the new Madison Building.
- ◆ **2006:** Copyright Office begins work in 2221 South Clark Street and 223 23rd Street in Crystal City, Virginia.
- ◆ **2007 (projected)** Copyright Office moves to renovated and reconfigured spaces in the Madison Building.

First Photos Are More Than a Century Old

The first photos of the Copyright Office are from the 1890s. The Library hired Levin C. Handy (1855?–1932), a nephew and apprentice of Mathew Brady, to record the construction of the Jefferson Building. Handy maintained a studio on Maryland Avenue SE in the District and often provided

photographic services for federal agencies. He took more than 1,000 photographs that chronicle the construction and interior spaces of the Jefferson Building.

When the Office moved from the U.S. Capitol to the newly constructed Thomas Jefferson Building, then called the Library of Congress Building, in 1897, the first superintendent of the building and grounds, Bernard Green, estimated that 800 tons of deposits were moved across First Street from the Capitol to the Thomas Jefferson Building. A well known photo records the piles of deposits that were created when the deposits were delivered to the new building.

In the Jefferson Building, the Main Office remained in the south basement hall during the entire period that the

Copyright Office occupied the building. Most of the desks faced west in two rows. The public area was at the west end of the room. The Register's Office was located in the southwest corner of the building. In the other corner office, in the southeast corner of the basement floor, was the Mail Receiving Room.

BACKGROUND *Librarian of Congress Spofford stands at his desk surrounded by copyright deposits in the Capitol in 1896.*

LEFT & ABOVE *Copyright Office workers in their spaces in the Jefferson Building around 1900.*

RIGHT *A view of the Library's space in the U.S. Capitol Building (far right). Spofford's fifteen-year campaign for proper housing for the national library resulted in the construction of the Jefferson Building (bottom). It was Spofford who famously told Congress that, without more space, he "would soon be presiding over the greatest chaos in America."*





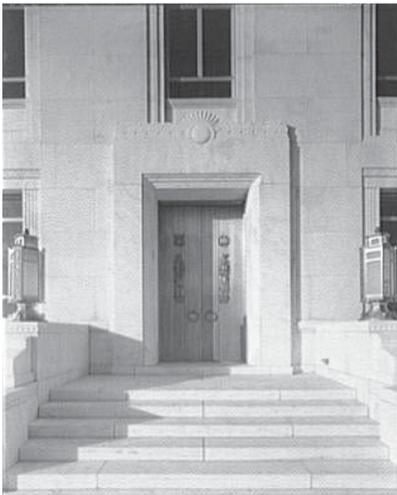
The Copyright Office Occupied First Floor of the New Annex Building

In December 1938, the Copyright Office began moving into the new Adams Building, then called the Annex

Building. By early 1939, the Office occupied the entire first floor of the new structure just east of the Jefferson Building. At the time of the move, the Copyright Office employed 74 men and 69 women.

The designers of the Adams Building had the Copyright Office specifically in mind. The south entrance had been intended as the entrance to the Copyright Office, as shown by the following statement in the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for Fiscal Year 1937:

On the south front (of the Annex Building) a handsome flight of steps rises to the first floor, which is given over to the Copyright Office. This separate entrance lends dignity to that government agency in keeping with its important function.



However, during World War II, part of the space occupied by the Copyright Office was taken for war-related activities. After the war, with the expansion of other Library functions, the space was never turned back to the use of the Copyright Office, and the south entrance, closed during the national emergency because of a shortage of guards, was not reopened.



RIGHT & OPPOSITE
Taken in the Annex Building,
the photos at right and on
page 5 show a portion of the
office spaces that occupied
nearly 80,000 square feet of the
first floor of the Adams
Building.



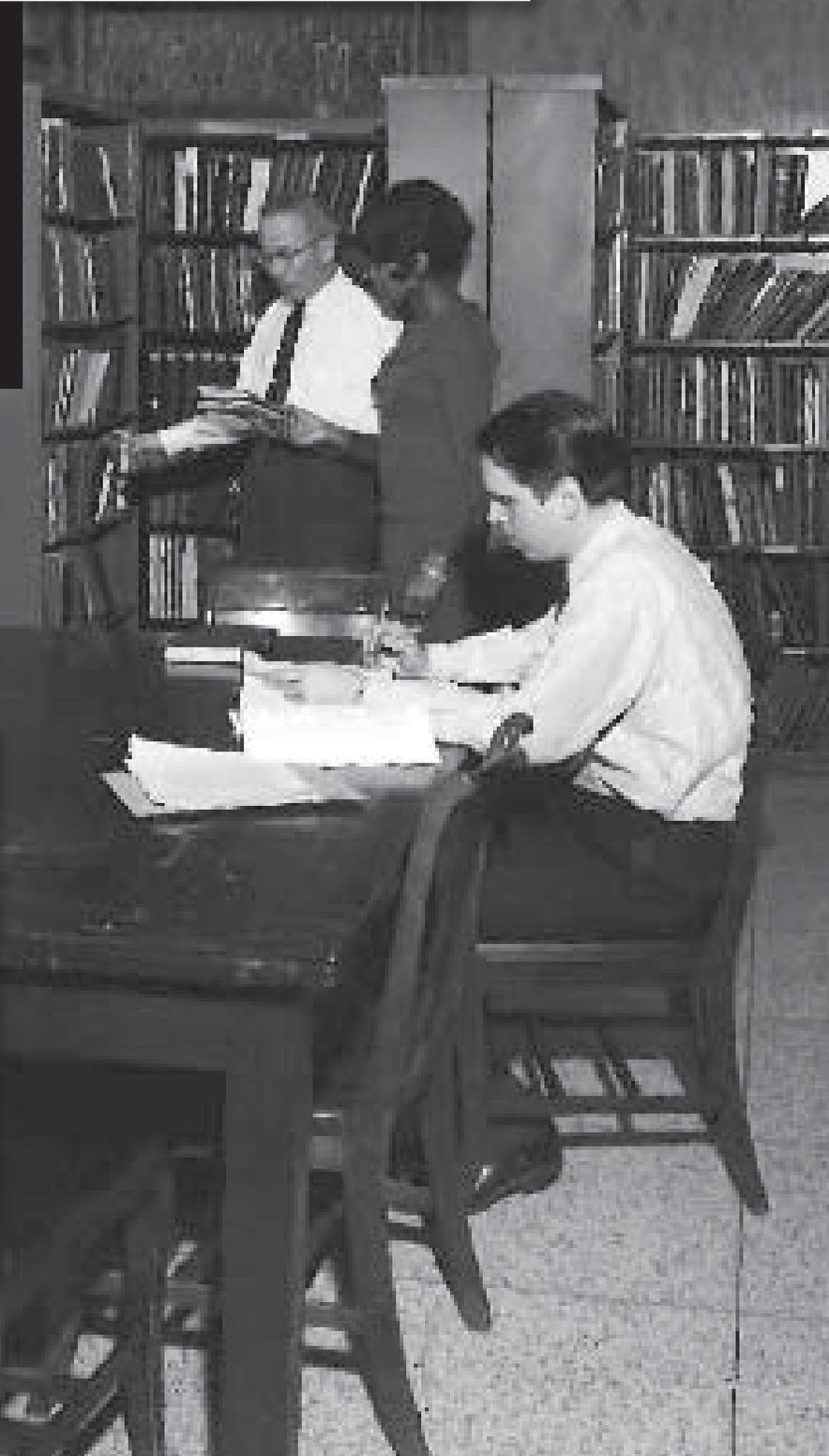
OPPOSITE The top three photos show the exterior of the Annex, now known as the Adams Building, completed and under construction. The south entrance, including an impressive series of steps, was originally intended for the Copyright Office.



TOP Deputy Register of Copyrights George Cary and Secretary to the Register of Copyrights Dorinda Allen confer prior to the move to Crystal City.

BACKGROUND Librarian Benjamin Rudd, Mary Rust of the "Copyright Library," and Bernard Dietz (seated) from the Examining Division work in the Copyright Office Reference Library.

BELOW Catherine Flaherty is at work in the Assistant Register's Office more than 37 years ago.



RIGHT *Copyright Office floor space in the Annex was not divided into cubicles.*

BELOW *Staffers are busy microfilming and processing copyright records.*



RIGHT *Betty Caraway, Barbara Owens, Kay Harman, and Lilly De Smitt assist a member of the public in the Register's Office.*



The Copyright Office Moved to Crystal City

The move of the Copyright Office in 1969 will be remembered as being bound up, by a quirk of fate, with the official events surrounding the death of the 34th President of the United States.

The news of former President Dwight Eisenhower's death came at midday on Friday, March 28, when the move was reaching its height. As the last trucks carrying the furniture and equipment of the Copyright Office drove from Capitol Hill toward Virginia, the area around the Library was being cordoned off to handle the crowds that would visit the U.S. Capitol Building, where Eisenhower's body was to lie in state. The Monday following the move was an official holiday to mourn his passing.

In the latter part of August 1968, preliminary discussions and studies had begun concerning the feasibility of moving the Copyright Office, because of the need by the Library for additional room and the possibility of getting space at Crystal City Mall.

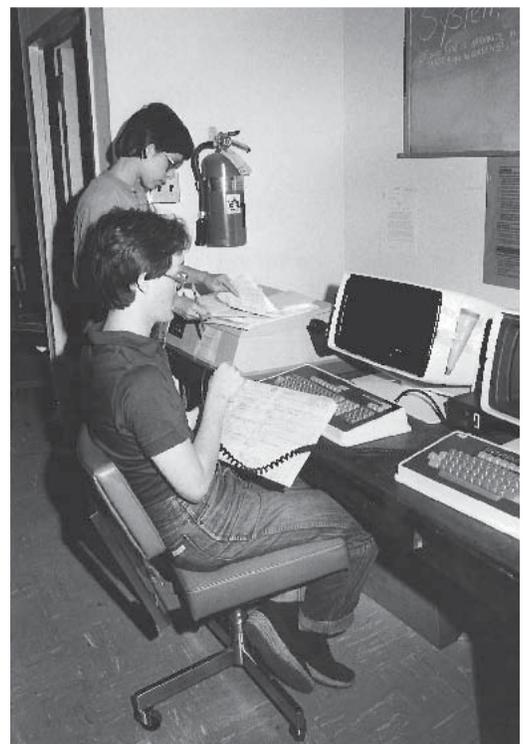


The first physical preparations within the Office included packing the correspondence files and record books. This took place early in March 1969. On Monday, March 24, the move itself began by transporting the Copyright Office library, correspondence, record books, card catalogs, and desks and equipment of selected units. Commencing on March 28, the desks and equipment of the remaining offices were moved and the materials in process were packed and moved.

On April 1, 1969, the Copyright Office began operations in its new location in Building No. 2 of Crystal City Mall. The items moved consisted of

- 6,000 pieces of furniture and equipment
- 14,000 volumes of record books
- 9,000 reference volumes
- 7,000 linear feet of correspondence
- 25,000,000 catalog cards

Left at the Annex Building were nine staff members, whose posts remained there.



The Office photos on pages 8 and 9 were taken in the 1970s in Crystal City.

BELOW Record books in use today in the Copyright Office are shelved in Crystal City in the 1970s.

RIGHT Carts compete with desks for floor space in the Cataloging Division.



*LEFT, TOP Marybeth Peters was promoted to attorney-advisor in 1975. Here she may be working on her *The General Guide to the Copyright Act of 1976*.*

LEFT, BOTTOM Staffers Vicky George and Randy Myers (seated) work with computers in the Materials Control Section.

BACKGROUND A street scene outside the Copyright Office in Crystal City.

The manual operations exemplified in this Crystal City mail room shot will be largely eliminated in the reengineered Copyright Office.



Office Relocated within Crystal City

In late 1977, several sections of the Copyright Office were relocated within Crystal City to the first two floors of Building 4 in the Crystal Square Complex.

Included was the Copyright Card Catalog. The 521 card cabinets containing millions of cards were moved with hydraulic lifts out the front door of Crystal Mall, through an underground loading platform in Crystal Square, and up the elevators to their new location.

Office Celebrated Ten Years in Crystal City

As plans developed for the Copyright Office to move into the James Madison Memorial Building, the Office celebrated its tenth anniversary in Crystal Mall. Copyright Office operations began in Crystal City on April 1, 1969, after seven months of planning. The April 1, 1969, issue of *Copyright Notices* cited "the delay in final authorization for the proposed Madison Memorial Annex" as one of the reasons for the relocation to Crystal City. The other reasons for the move included the growing number of Copyright Office staff members needed to handle the increasing volume of registrations and the expansion of other programs in the Library of Congress.



No photos exist of the Copyright Card Catalog being moved by hydraulic lifts. The Card Catalog suffered no losses in its several moves.

BACKGROUND *The I&R Division's Publications Office workspace in Crystal City*

Copyright Office Moved Back to Capitol Hill

On October 14, 1980, *Copyright Notices* reported that the move into the James Madison Memorial Building was complete.

Planning for the construction of the Madison Building began in the late 1950s and included the Copyright Office as part of the general design. The move into the Madison Building went according to schedule. A commercial transport company moved hundreds of copyright deposits, records, documents, the card catalog, office equipment, furniture, and even a piano in about two weeks.

The move entailed the loss of only two percent of the staff of 570 employees.

Card Catalog Moved to New Home in the Madison Building

In September 1980, movers transferred the Copyright Card Catalog from Crystal Mall to its new home in the James Madison Memorial Building. At this time, reported *Copyright Notices*, the card catalog comprised 45 million cards and nearly 30,000 drawers of cards.

Working in shifts of seven hours, eight crew members shifted about 790 cards per minute for seventeen hours every day for seven days. To finish the job in time, the contractors were assisted by Office staffers.

As this was happening, the Librarian of Congress and Register of Copyrights David Ladd appeared before Congress to testify on a bill that would have merged the Copyright Office with the Patent and Trademark Office.



ABOVE *Elsie Maylott of the Reference and Bibliography Section helps out in the Public Information Office in the early 1980s.*

RIGHT *The new James Madison Memorial Building provided ample workspace in 1982. Automation, as shown by the computer, was new in the Copyright Office.*

LEFT *The Copyright Office exhibit installed in 1984 in the north corridor on the fourth floor of the Madison Building was popular with visitors to the Office. It was placed in storage in April 2006 while the Office again conducts most of its business in Crystal City.*



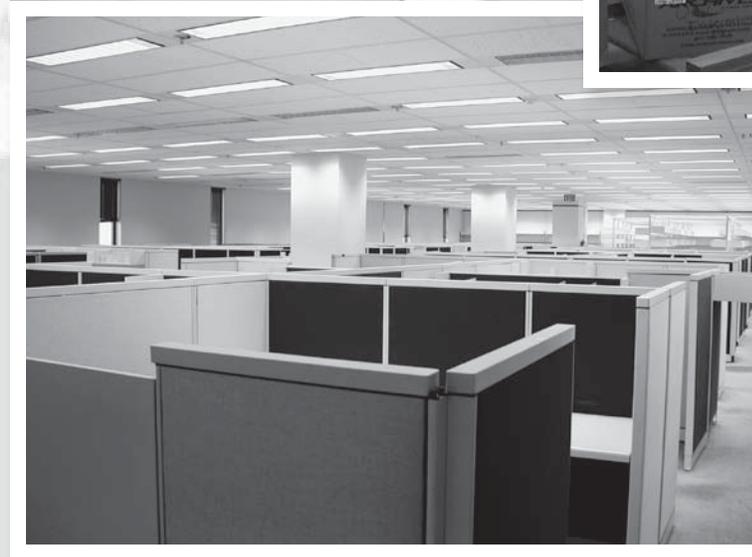
BACKGROUND *Copyright Office staffer Frank Evina examines the newly opened exhibit.*



RIGHT *During the summer of 2006, Office materials were packed up and either moved to Crystal City or placed in storage.*



BELOW *Silent and empty cubicles await demolition.*



Copyright Notices 54:8

Published by the Publications Section, Information and Reference Division, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

PUBLICATIONS STAFF *Writer/Editor:* Judith Nierman, 707-6816. *Designer:* Charles Gibbons, 707-3313. *Printing Oversight:* Teresa McCall, 707-8831. *Distribution:* Jennifer DesBordes, Supervisor; Leroy Hayes, Desmond Mathis, Khan McKay, and Fred Weiss. Helen Hester-Ossa, *Head, Publications Section* · James Cole, *Chief, Information & Reference Division* · Marybeth Peters, *Register of Copyrights*

Suggestions for articles and comments are welcomed. Please call for deadlines.
