

THE Licensing Connection

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE LICENSING DIVISION

Winter 2014, Vol. 8

Licensing Division's Year in Review

Season's Greetings

I am very proud to say that 2014 was another year full of accomplishments for the division. Here are a few items that I want to highlight.

On the reengineering front, the division continued to make significant progress toward building an infrastructure to allow eLi, the planned electronic filing system, to be fully hosted in a public cloud environment. Staff and contractors continued to be involved with various reengineering facets, such as:

- cloud-focused project management,
- system administration architecture, and
- IT security.

We worked diligently to streamline business processes to create a user-friendly and efficient royalty payment system that will eliminate errors and reduce correspondence. Anxious to get customer feedback, we held a virtual webinar and two pilots to test the system.

In the first pilot, internal and external stakeholders gained hands-on experience in testing prototypes of the cable statements of account (SOA) submission system in a proof-of-concept environment. The division then leveraged what it learned and planned extensively for its second pilot.

Prior to the second pilot, we invited cable operators to assist with testing the most recent addition to the eLi system. Staff then created accounts for the nearly 50 participants from 18 cable systems. We equipped each with an official quick start guide, a batch interface specification guide,

and FAQs, (developed from prepilot testers) and on October 1, 2014, officially launched the second pilot. Participants worked from their own offices or home computers to test the system by entering data from previously filed single statements using the data entry portal or from multiple statements using the much-anticipated batch system-to-system interface. Filers certified, submitted, and created printable PDFs, which were exact replicas of the paper SOAs. Weekly teleconferences were held throughout the pilot to discuss problems, record comments, and obtain feedback.

Overall, the response was positive. Features of the new system that were especially well received include its provision of:

- correct calculations;
- a directional format (i.e., the dollar amount automatically generates the appropriate form [SA-1, SA-2, SA-3]);
- an easy-to-follow layout; and
- mandatory field requirements (ensuring that important information isn't overlooked or omitted).

This feedback we received will help us create a better system for everyone!



James B. Enzinna, Chief, Licensing Division



The division continued in 2014 to focus on processing complex cable SA-3 long-form submissions and fees and examining all cable SA1-2 short-form filings. We met or exceeded congressional targets set for the examination of cable statements (4.5 months for SA1-2 forms and 13 months for SA-3 forms).

In addition, for the first time in the division's history, the average number of pending-correspondence SOAs fell to approximately 50. We also eliminated the issuance of initial and final reminder follow-up letters to cable, satellite, and DART filers to reduce administrative backlogs and to improve the timely disposition of SOAs for public availability.

To increase the division's visibility and outreach, staff attended "Cable 2014," the National Cable and Telecommunications Association's conference in Los Angeles; the American Cable Association's Summit 21 and the Satellite Conference Exhibition, both held in Washington, D.C.; and the Independent Cable Show in Kansas City, Missouri. We highlighted reengineering at the conferences, particularly the second eLi pilot focusing on single and batch SOA submissions.

Other outreach activities included updating licensing circulars and the division's

[Pay.gov](#) tutorial. We also digitized section 114 notices in sound recording, cable correspondence flag, and legal/first community/all community reference lists and made them more accessible by uploading the information on thin client servers in the Copyright Public Records Reading Room. In addition, we responded to requests for financial information from copyright owners concerning past distributions and cable royalty fee breakdowns (i.e., base rate, 3.75, and the syndicated exclusivity surcharge) by posting the biweekly report of receipts and monthly financial statements and quarterly division operating costs on our website. [www.copyright.gov/licensing]

Lastly, the eLi project team launched an independent assessment of the project from its inception to its current state. The goal is to evaluate the implementation of eLi to seek better, more cost-effective ways to deploy the software that serves as the system's backbone.

I want to express my thanks to Library management, Licensing staff, and to the many contractors and stakeholders, both inreach and outreach, who have worked beside us all year. You are much appreciated!

Jim Enzinna 



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

(2014/2 Accounting Period)

Satellite Fees: The \$725 filing fee per statement, in addition to the appropriate royalty fee, is due in the office by January 30, 2015.*

Cable Fees: The filing fee (\$15 for each SA-1, \$20 for each SA-2, or \$725 for each SA-3) per statement, in addition to the appropriate royalty fee, is due in the office no later than Monday, March 2, 2015.*

*Please remit the royalty fee and filing fee in one EFT payment.

For more information visit our website. [www.copyright.gov/licensing]



Employee Spotlight:

Carol Garrett, Senior Examiner



Carol Garrett is a Senior Examiner in the Licensing Division.

How long have you worked with the Licensing Division?

I have been a licensing examiner since January 1996.

What do you like best about working for the division?

The atmosphere is the best! I have great leaders, and my coworkers are the best. Also, management allows me the freedom to demonstrate my leadership and creative skills.

What is the hardest part about learning to examine a statement of account?


The hardest part is trying to explain to

cable operators the problems with a filing, because systems tend to overlook the former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations. Although the rules are no longer in effect under the FCC, we still apply them when examining a statement of account. It seems that cable systems focus more on the new rules and regulations that have recently come into effect.

What are you looking forward to the new system accomplishing?

The Licensing Division System (LDS) does not accommodate all the detailed changes that have been recently enacted. I'm looking forward to eLi being able to perform functions that the current system doesn't allow and having a paperless filing system.

What is the one thing you hope to see the system do?

I hope the eLi system will help cable operators and owners catch errors before the statement is submitted, thus reducing the need for correspondence from examiners. 



Lisa Oates, Licensing Detailee




Lisa D. Oates is a technician in the Receipt Analysis and Control Division. She was detailed to the Licensing Division for 120 days.

During your detail, what was your contribution to the daily activities of the Licensing Division?

I participated in the eLi test pilot system by onboarding testers and providing feedback to their questions and comments. Additionally, I provided fee and website information, fulfilled statement of account requests for visitors in the reading room, and reviewed the website for corrections.

What do you like best about working in the Licensing Division?

I've always had an interest in learning more about the division and how it fits within the Copyright Office. I enjoyed working independently while learning about the copyright royalty program and its laws. 



Being There

Got Conferences, Meetings, or Conventions?

Licensing Division staff may be available to attend, exhibit, or participate in upcoming activities. Email us at licensing@loc.gov to let us know of your plans.

Here are examples of events U.S. Copyright Office and Licensing Division staff have attended:

Recently Attended:

- July 27–30, 2014: Independent Cable Show, Kansas City, Mo. 



Upcoming Events::

- ACA Summit: March 3–5, 2015, Washington, D.C.
- Satellite Conference: March 16–19, 2015, Washington, D.C.
- NCTA Cable Show: May 5–7, 2015, Chicago
- Independent Cable Show: July 19–22, 2015, Boston



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