

Public information and education



Staff dismantle the Copyright Office public exhibit in preparation for renovation of the Office's space in the James Madison Memorial Building.

The Copyright Office, as the agency responsible for copyright law administration, is well qualified to disseminate information on copyright law and its application, providing copyright education to the public and responding to telephone, correspondence, and in-person information requests.

The Register and her staff spoke at more than fifty domestic symposia, conferences, and workshops on various aspects of copyright law and the intellectual property world's current challenges. These included two successful programs sponsored by state bar intellectual property sections: "The Copyright Office Comes to California" (Los Angeles and San Francisco) and "The Copyright Office Comes to New York." See the "International Activities" section earlier in this report for international appearances.

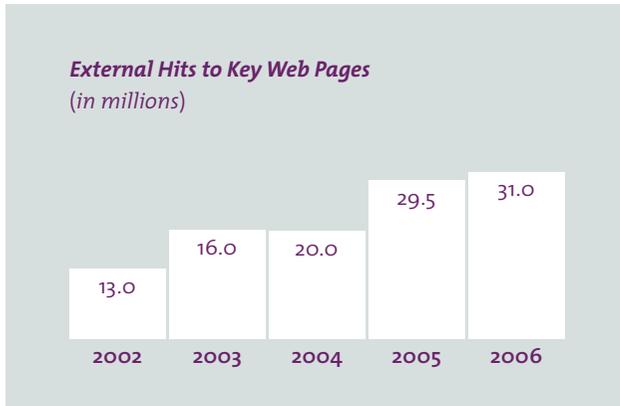
Copyright Office Website

The Copyright Office website serves as an important public face for the Copyright Office and continues to play a key role in fulfilling the Office's strategic goal to "improve public understanding of copyright law." The website (www.copyright.gov) makes available informational circulars, announcements, regulations, the copyright law and related material, application forms, and historical information on copyright. The website also provides the capability to search records of copyright registrations and recorded documents from 1978 to the present. Portions of the website and popular circulars are available in Spanish.

The Office logged more than 31 million external hits on key pages of its website during the year — a six percent increase over the previous year. The public conducted almost two million searches of the Copyright Office registration database utilizing the Office website's search feature. The website also served as a vehicle for information about changes directly affecting members of the public, such as the increase in the basic registration fee and other fees for services on July 1, 2006.

The website received numerous additions and enhancements throughout the year, including:

- the first e-service portal, for preregistration of certain classes of works likely to be infringed before publication;



- an expanded historical documents section, including past annual and special reports, previous enactments of copyright law, and biographies of past registers;
- a new system to synchronize Copyright Office regulations (37 CFR) with the Government Printing Office's daily updates of its beta website for regulations.

Jefferson Patterson Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program

The Copyright Office served as cosponsor of the Librarian's 2006 Jefferson Patterson Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program, with an Office staff member serving as that program's project manager. This ten-week program was designed to enable the Library of Congress to locate and itemize works in its collections deposited for copyright that have increased in value and significance since they were originally registered. The Library selected twenty-five junior fellows for this program, two of whom worked within the Copyright Office. They reviewed approximately 63,000 registration applications, stored in forty-five one-cubic-foot boxes retrieved from offsite storage. The interns inventoried a total of 1,494 pictorial and photographic deposit copies that they discovered and prepared them for transfer to the Prints and Photographs Division. In addition to preparing a comprehensive inventory which will serve as an invaluable research tool to the Prints and Photographs Division and to the Copyright Office, the interns also stabilized many of the treasures by placing them in Mylar and acid free folders.

Copyright Records Project

The Copyright Office, with the Library's Office of Strategic Initiatives conducted a business analysis that determined the feasibility of digitizing millions of Copyright Office paper records from 1790 through 1977. A comprehensive report in 2005 provided implementation strategies, cost estimates, and a recommendation for how the conversion could be handled in two stages. The first stage would cost approximately \$6,000,000 over a six-year period and would achieve the preservation goal and very basic online access. The second stage would add item-level indexing, enhanced searching and retrieval, and would cost between \$5,000,000 and \$65,000,000 depending on the extent of fields indexed. The Copyright Office submitted a FY 2007 budget request for \$1 million to start the first stage.

Public Information Outputs

In fiscal 2006, the Office overall responded to 338,831 requests for direct reference services. The decrease in 2005 and 2006 is primarily due to the Office being more current in its processing and the increased use of the Office's website for information. The Office as a whole also assisted more than 21,500 public visitors. The Public Information Section assisted 8,886 members of the public in person, taking in 12,758 registration applications and 2,463 documents for recordation. The section answered 106,141 telephone inquiries, 8,380 letter requests, and 29,795 email requests for information. The Office is working to reduce the average caller wait time, which is higher than the Office's target of under 90 seconds.

The Office published twenty issues of *NewsNet*, an electronic news update about the Copyright Office and copyright-related activities, to 6,333 subscribers (an increase of twenty percent over 2005) during the fiscal year.

In response to public requests, the Reference and Bibliography Section searched 12,792 titles and prepared 832 search reports.



In addition, the section assisted 8,886 users of copyright records in the Copyright Card Catalog and online.

The Clerical Support Unit responded to 12,906 letter requests, 40,471 telephone requests, and 12,643 email requests from the public for forms and other publications.

During the fiscal year, the Office processed 352,884 deposits, constituting 6,731 cubic feet, for storage at the Deposit Copies Storage Unit in Landover, Maryland (a 30 percent increase over fiscal 2005). The unit transferred 6,731 cubic feet of records, consisting of unpublished deposits and registration applications, to other remote off-site storage facilities. The unit consistently met its performance goal of retrieving requested deposits within one business day.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The Office received and responded to forty requests under the FOIA during the fiscal year. Although several of these requests sought information that is already publicly available or that is under the control of the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office responded to the requests or referred them to the Library as appropriate. The Copyright Office average turnaround time for FOIA requests is four business days, one of the best in the federal government.

Planned Storage Facility at Fort Meade

Efforts continued to provide a strong and economically viable case for congressional approval of funds to construct the proposed copyright deposit copy storage facility at Fort Meade, Maryland. During FY 2006, the Office evaluated various versions of the original architectural design for this facility. The Office worked with the Architect of the Capitol and the Army Corps of Engineers to redesign the structure so that the storage areas are on a single floor instead of the originally proposed multi-story plan and so that the height of storage shelving in these areas increases from six to fifteen feet. While these changes in the design will affect some work processes in this facility and require purchase of some additional equipment to service the collections, they provide considerable savings in construction costs. By the end of fiscal 2006, the outside architectural contractor selected by the Architect of the Capitol had completed a 30 percent design proposal for the deposit storage facility based on the proposed

redesign and submitted it for review. Future planning calls for design completion in fiscal 2008 and construction to begin in fiscal 2010 with occupancy in fiscal 2011, if Congress authorizes funding.