

Comments on the Copyright Office's request concerning Technological Upgrades to Registration and Recordation Functions

-Barbara Jones-Binns

The changes proposed by the Copyright Office regarding submission of Recordation documents are welcomed in an ever increasing modernizing world. In a recent story prompted by the Healthcare.gov challenges, it was reported that some U.S. Government offices are still functioning with Floppy Discs.¹ This is indicative of the modernization of a company, the United States Government, with an information technology budget of 78.9 billion dollars in FY2013.² Many offices, by statutory requirement, have to accept documents on paper and as such, electronic modernization of some administrative processes have remained slow. Thus, the proposed regulation change that would allow electronic submission of copyright lists would be more reliable than paper acceptance as currently allowed, in addition, it still allows for acceptance of paper documents if necessary.

An additional layer of the proposed changes is the implementation of a confirmation that the documents have been received. A return receipt will now be provided should the remitter request one on the appropriate form. Again, working within the bureaucratic behemoth of federal agencies sometimes requires patience in that it can take many months to work through either an administrative process or even receive information about a job that has been applied to through the on line system.³ Further, frustration can occur if you are told to wait the requisite amount of time only to find out that the paperwork has been lost or is considered incomplete. Thus, it is it beneficial for the individual as well as the agency in that it allows persons to be held accountable for the administrative process.

¹ Jada Smith, *Slowly they Modernize a Federal Agency that still uses Floppy Disks*, NY Times, December 12, 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/07/us/politics/slowly-they-modernize-a-federal-agency-that-still-uses-floppy-disks.html?_r=0http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/07/us/politics/slowly-they-modernize-a-federal-agency-that-still-uses-floppy-disks.html?_r=0.

² Federal Information Technology FY 2013 Priorities. Executive Office of the President of the United States, http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/2013_it_budget_rollout_20120213.pdf

³ See Jonathan Kames blog post, *An Object Lesson in Incompetence at the Social Security Administration*, <http://www.mit.edu/~jik/ssa-zip.html>.