

# Historical Public Records Program Update

Copyright Office Modernization  
Webinar Series

August 31, 2021

The webinar will begin promptly  
at noon eastern time

**Copyright**  
United States Copyright Office

# 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



**Maren Read**

Deputy Director of  
Office of Copyright Records,  
U.S. Copyright Office



**Robin Coreas**

Subject Matter Expert,  
Office of Copyright Records,  
U.S. Copyright Office



**Kristin A. Phelps**

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

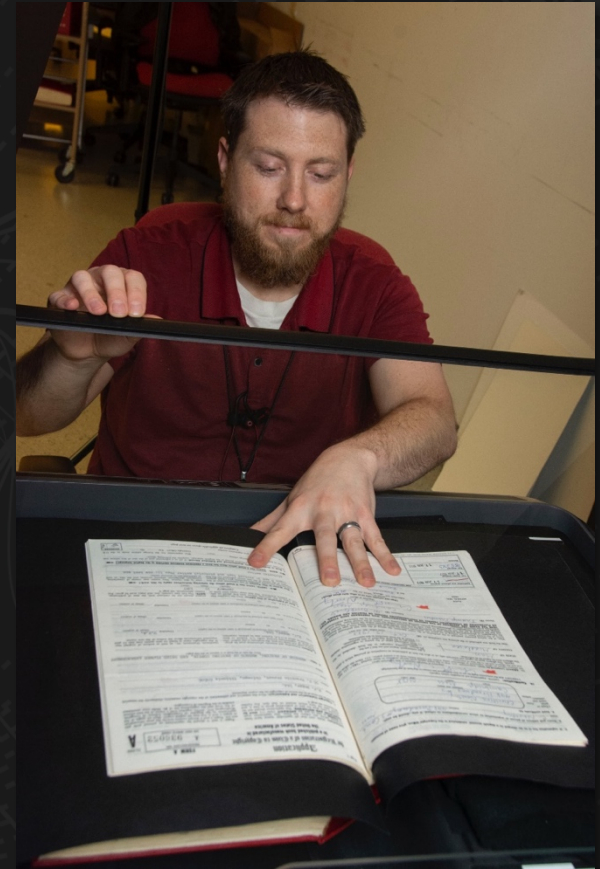
# HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – CHALLENGE

## 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.

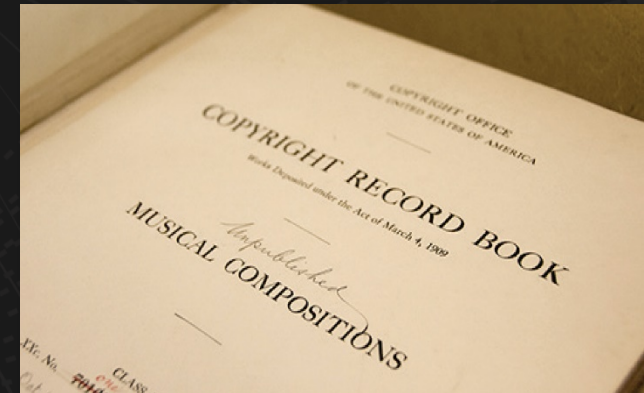
# HISTORICAL PUBLIC RECORDS – GOALS

- 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

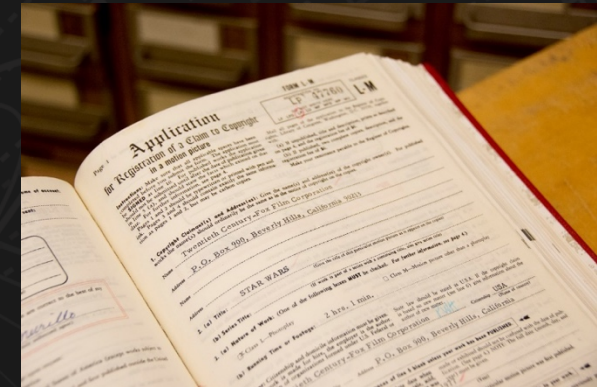
- Record Books: Metadata Extraction
- Microfilm Digitization and Metadata Extraction
- Integration - ECS Copyright Public Records System

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

# HISTORICAL RECORD BOOKS DIGITIZATION PROJECT

## 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

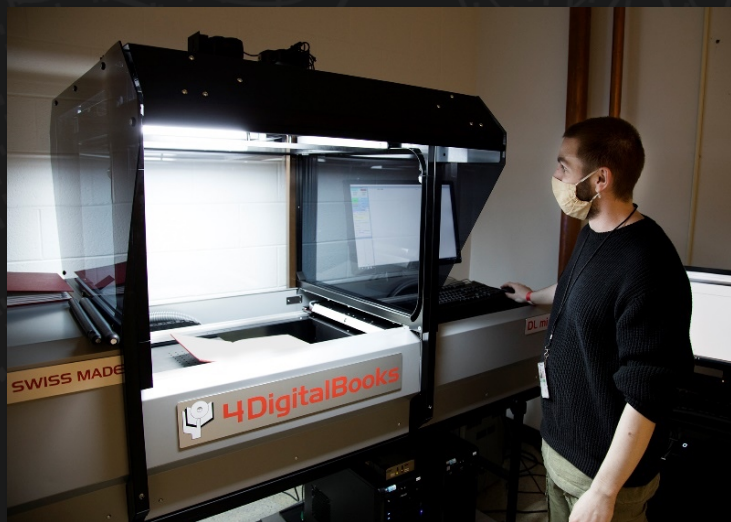
## Project Status

- 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 a online digital collection

**LIBRARY** LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Everything Search Loc.gov

BOOKPRINTED MATERIAL

## Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

View 1007 images in sequence.

Download PDF

**About this Item**

**Title**  
Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

**Created / Published**  
1977

**Subject Headings**

- History
- United States
- Copyright registration
- Sources
- Copyright

**Genre**  
Copyright

**Notes**

- 1 page, 2-sided; recto & verso contains full record
- Registration Numbers: 920500-920999

**Call Number/Physical Location**  
Copyright Class A  
Registration Numbers: 920500-920999

**Source Collection**  
Copyright Historical Record Books

**Online Format**  
pdf  
image

**Part of**  
Copyright Historical Record Books (250)  
Copyright Record Books (250)

**Format**  
Book/Printed Material

**Dates**  
1977

**Languages**  
English

**Subjects**  
Copyright  
Copyright Registration  
History  
Sources  
United States

77525/2st=gallery

## Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Results: 1-40 of 1,007

View Gallery

Image 1 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 2 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 3 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 4 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 5 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 6 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 7 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 8 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 9 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 10 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 11 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 12 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 13 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 14 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

Image 15 of Copyright Record Book Class A Vol 3838; Registration Numbers 920500-920999; 1977

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.

# SUMMARY OF THE VIRTUAL CARD CATALOG (VCC)

- 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.

The screenshot displays the Copyright.gov Virtual Card Catalog (VCC) interface. The header includes the Copyright.gov logo and navigation links: About, Help, FAQ, Card Guide, Survey, Feedback, Card Catalog, and My Folder. The main content area is titled "Card Catalog" and includes a note: "Note: By default, the complete collection is available for browsing. To narrow the results, filter the Indexes, Drawers, or Cards (1955-1977 only). To execute the filters, click on SAVE AND FILTER." The interface is divided into three steps: Step 1: Select Indexes, Step 2: Filter Drawers, and Step 3: Filter by Card Text (Limited). Under Step 1, there are three tabs: Registrations (selected), Assignments, and Other Indexes. The Registrations tab shows a grid of index filters with checkboxes and counts: 1971-1977 [6496] (filterable by card text), 1955-1970 [8388] (filterable by card text), 1946-1954 [2636], 1938-1945 [2809], 1898-1937 (with a dropdown arrow and "Select all" option), and 1870-1897 [222]. A "Save and Filter" button is located below the filters. At the bottom, there is a "Selected Timeframes" section with an "All" button and a "Reset All Filters" button. A summary bar at the bottom right shows: "Indexes Selected: All", "Drawers Returned: 1 - 50 of 25,520", and "Cards Returned: 1 - 50 of 41,501,265". A disclaimer is visible at the bottom of the page.



# 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

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION A1  
BOOK NOW FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES  
REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS, Washington, D. C.  
Of the BOOK named herein TWO complete copies of the best edition FIRST PUBLISHED on the date stated herein are herewith deposited to secure copyright registration, accompanied by the AFFIDAVIT 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. \$3 (statutory fee for registration and certificate) is also enclosed. The copyright is claimed by

(1) Name of copyright owner Margaret Mortenson Landon  
(2) Address 2910 Brandywine, N.W., Washington, D. C.  
(3) Name of author or translator Margaret Mortenson Landon  
(4) Country of which the author is a citizen \* United States  
(5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where \_\_\_\_\_  
(6) Title of book ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM

19-5654

A1	ciA 181540
Application rec'd.	JUL - 1 1944
Affidavit rec'd.	JUL - 1 1944
Fee rec'd.	June 5, 1944

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT  
IMPORTANT. Applicant must not write in the blank lines above; to do so will cause delay in Copyright Office.

(7) First published on the 29th day of June, 1944.  
(8) Send certificate of registration to THE JOHN DAY COMPANY  
2 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y.  
(9) Name and address of person or firm sending the fee THE JOHN DAY COMPANY  
2 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y.

\* If the work is a translation, state name and citizenship of the translator in lieu of that of the author.

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 IMLagaratNAorienson-lsandon- --- (4) Country of which the author is a citizen United&ates..... (Must be stated)(5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where(6) Title of book --AADTH IGO -SIA----- -AI ~ ciA 81540---

# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

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# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

## Affidavit Image; OCR Text from VCC

**AFFIDAVIT** IMPORTANT.—The execution of this affidavit must be SUBSEQUENT to the facts stated therein, and must be made by an INDIVIDUAL (an official of a corporation or firm may act)

State of New York )  
County of New York ) ss: (Of the numbered statements, check thus (y) the one that applies. Failure to do so will cause delay.)

I, Caroline S. Lehman (being duly sworn, depose) do hereby depose

and say: That I am the (1) ~~proprietor, proprietor, or partner~~  
(2) duly authorized agent or representative residing in the United States of the claimant of copy-right in  
(3) ~~author, composer, or artist~~ the book entitled:  
ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM

that said book has been printed in the United States by Van Rees Press  
(Name of establishment)

at New York, N.Y. (City) (State)  (1) from type set (or plates made in the United States from type set) within the limits of the United States, or  (2) by lithographic, photo-lithographic, or other process wholly performed within the limits of the United States by Van Rees Press  
(Name of establishment; repeat if same as printer)

at New York, N.Y. (City) (State) \*that the printing of the text of the said book was completed on the 9th day of May, 1944;

that the said book WAS PUBLISHED on the 20th day of June, 1944;  
that the binding of the said book has been published within the limits of the United States by Van Rees Press  
(Name of establishment)

at New York, N.Y. (City) (State)

Subscribed and (sworn to) Caroline S. Lehman  
(affirmed) before me this 29th day of June, 1944  
NOTARIAL SEAL (Copyright law makes use of official seal obligatory)  
Catherine Habel  
(Signature of Notary Public)

\*Sec. 16 of the Act provides that the completion of the printing, or (2) the affidavit shall state either (1) the date of publication. (Mar. 1944—75,000)

said book WAS PUBLISHED on the\_ day o+ June , 194, that the binding of the said book has been pG ± \$i gd within the limits of the United States by Van Rey - -S(N i L ment)at N ew York, N.Y. ( w1g rlime(City) (S e(Signature of person making affida1it)Subscribed and orn tbei day of 19 \_-NOTARIAL SE AL - (Copyright law makes use of ...

# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

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# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

## Handwritten Application; OCR Text from VCC

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION A1  
FOR BOOK NOW FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES  
REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS, Washington, D. C.  
Of the BOOK named herein TWO complete copies of the best edition FIRST 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 Sisters of Loreto  
(2) Address Loretto College El Paso Texas  
(3) Name of author or translator Melvin Garrison Anson  
(4) Country of which the author is a citizen \* United States of America  
(5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where  
(6) Title of book Melvin Delaney

10-3034

A1	Rec'd Mar. 20, 1939
	Appointed JUN 22, 1939
	Affidavit June 22, 1939
	© Cl A 129355
Fee rec'd, \$ 2.00	30545 May 11, 1939

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

(7) First published on the 10th day of February, 1939.  
(8) Send certificate of registration to Sisters of Loreto  
Loretto College El Paso Texas  
(9) Name and address of person or firm sending the fee Sister M. Ignatius  
131 Lammell St, Manchester, New Hampshire

\* If the work is a translation, state name and citizenship of the translator in lieu of that of the author.

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 or translator (4) Country of which the author is a citizen \* (5) If an alien author domiciled in the United States, state where (6) Title of book

# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

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# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

## Handwritten Affidavit; OCR Text from VCC

**AFFIDAVIT** IMPORTANT.—The execution of this affidavit must be SUBSEQUENT to the facts stated therein, and must be by an INDIVIDUAL (an official of a corporation or firm may not).

State of New Hampshire } (Of the numbered statements, check thus (✓) the one that applies. Failure to do so will cause delay.)  
County of Hillsboro }

I, Sister M. Ignatius (being duly sworn, depose) and say: That I am the (1) person claiming copyright in the United States of the claimant of copyright in the book entitled: Mother Delaney

I further depose and say that such book, for which registration is requested has been printed in the United States, by Granite State Press (Name of establishment) at Manchester, New Hampshire (City) (State)  (1) from type set (or plates made in the United States from type set) within the limits of the United States, or  (2) by lithographic, photo-engraving, or other process wholly performed within the limits of the United States by Granite State Press (Name of establishment); repeat if more than one printer) at Manchester, New Hampshire (City) (State) \*that the printing of the text of the said book was completed on the 25th day of January, 1938; that the said book WAS PUBLISHED on the 18th day of February, 1938; that the binding of the said book has been performed within the limits of the United States by New Hampshire Binding (Name of establishment) at Concord, New Hampshire (City) (State) (Signature of person making affidavit) Sister M. Ignatius

Subscribed and (sworn to) before me this 19th day of June, 1939 (Signature of Notary Public) John Baranauk Notary Public

NOTARIAL SEAL (Copyright law makes use of notarial seal obligatory)

\*Sec. 14 of the Act provides that the completion of the printing, or (2) the date of publication.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-5054

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 residmngand 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  
requestedhas been punted in the United States, by \_\_ \_\_ -4-  
LLLQf&quot;a4e.. ---&#39;&#39;n (Name of establishment)at Q (1)  
from type set (npa+ e -(City) (State) 1tL \_jijie S~.Lye set) within the  
limits of the United States, or Q (2) I, hL-o-hgr ~ L~gr~n m(Name f  
establishm n , repeat if se as printer)at(a -, \*that the printing of the  
textat (City) &#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.that the binding of the said book has been  
performed within the limits of the Un ed States by- ( e of establ  
ment)(City) / (Ste)\_\_\_\_(Signture of



# CARD CATALOG DATA PERFECTION PROJECT

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```

# 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)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Copyright Public Records System (CPRS). The header includes the Copyright logo and 'Public Records System' on the left, and 'Home' and 'Help' links on the right. A large blue banner features the U.S. Copyright Office seal and a welcome message: 'Welcome to the U.S. Copyright Office' and 'Public Records System - Pilot'. Below the banner is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search Copyright numbers, Name, Title, and more.' and buttons for 'Search' and 'Advanced Search'. The main content area is titled 'What's New?' and contains a paragraph about the CPRS pilot program. Below this is a 'Research Services' section with three columns, each featuring an image and a title: 'Records Research and Certifications', 'Historical Public Records', and 'Virtual Card Catalog'. Each column also includes a brief description of the service.

**Copyright** | Public Records System Home Help


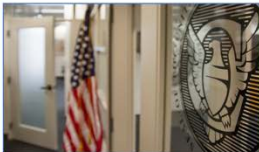
Welcome to the  
U.S. Copyright Office  
Public Records System - Pilot

Search Copyright numbers, Name, Title, and more. Search [Advanced Search](#)

### What's New?

This Copyright Public Records System (CPRS) is a pilot that will run in parallel with the Copyright Public Catalog located at <http://cocatalog.loc.gov>. The CPRS contains the same information from 1978-present that appears in the official Copyright Public Catalog, but it uses a more powerful search engine, provides easy filtering capability, and follows user-centered design principles in line with the [Enterprise Copyright System](#).

### Research Services

 <p><b>Records Research and Certifications</b></p> <p>Request official copies of records, certificates, search</p>	 <p><b>Historical Public Records</b></p> <p>Learn more about our efforts to secure and preserve historical</p>	 <p><b>Virtual Card Catalog</b></p> <p>The Virtual Card Catalog Proof of Concept contains over 41.5</p>
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# 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](https://copyright.gov/copyright-modernization)

Send Questions To

[modernization@copyright.gov](mailto:modernization@copyright.gov)