Copyright Office Modernization

Modernization is the Copyright Office-wide initiative to (1) build a new enterprise copyright system featuring a user-centered and flexible design, (2) streamline processes and policies, (3) improve access, and (4) reimagine the entire Office.

Modernization is a multi-year process that requires extensive collaboration among all Copyright Office divisions, as well as with the Library of Congress. It has two key components:

- transforming all of the Office's multiple information technology (IT) systems—including those that support registration, recordation, access to public records (including historical records), information services, and other public services—into a single improved and integrated IT enterprise system; and

- ensuring that non-IT activities are efficient and aligned with the Office's strategic goals, including by revising workflows to improve business efficiencies, enhancing communications and collaboration, training staff, and updating regulations to streamline Office practices.

How will modernization benefit you?

Copyright Office modernization will directly benefit everyone who interacts with the Office.

By improving the Copyright Office's technology, structure, and practices, modernization will make the Office's copyright information more accessible and improve all of the Office's services, including registering claims to copyright and recording ownership changes for those claims (known as recordation).

For example, adjustments to the look and feel of the Office's online presence and applications will make them significantly more user-friendly, resulting in faster service and fewer errors. Additionally, improved Office technology will streamline operations and collect the most useful information for the copyright system.

Processes that support public services will become integrated, more user-friendly, flexible, and better able to accommodate future growth. Importantly, modernization will focus on the unique needs of both Copyright Office staff and external users, and it will not be constrained by a specific technological platform.

Part of the modernization process will also consider how to allow third parties to interact with Office data on a larger scale, including through application programming interfaces (APIs), to ensure that the public and the Office have access to robust records.

The four components of modernization

Technology
Process
Organization
People

United States Copyright Office
Library of Congress

101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540-6007

(202) 707-1600
askcmo@copyright.gov · copyright.gov

What We Are Working On

Modernization is a comprehensive undertaking that spans the entire Copyright Office. Within this overarching endeavor, the Office is carrying out a number of major efforts, such as:

- **Enterprise Copyright System (ECS):** The Office will develop a new enterprise copyright system that integrates and improves Office technology systems. This includes evaluating the current registration system and performing outreach to a cross section of users to improve the entire application process. Another improvement will be to modernize and automate recordation to simplify and improve how the Office records information on copyright ownership changes.

- **Business Process Reengineering:** The Office will review its business processes and staff responsibilities, and recommend new methods and processes to reduce operational costs and improve efficiencies.

- **Comprehensive Access to Public Records:** The Office will address all of its records, both those housed within legacy systems and historical records that are not easily accessible to the public online. The Office will convert its extensive, paper-based pre-1978 entries into digital format and improve public access, enhance online search capabilities, and continue preserving records. As part of this effort, the Office will continue its proof of concept for the Virtual Card Catalog (VCC), an online system to replace the current onsite-only card catalog, and will allow users to access the Office's historical records online with full-search capabilities—beyond just the VCC.

- **Outreach:** The Office will engage and inform staff, industries that rely on Office services, and the public.

- **Data Management Initiative:** The Office will analyze its data, including the types and location of the data. The Office will use this analysis to develop a data model that will allow the Office to use and work with data more easily and completely to the benefit of the Office and the public.

Role of the Copyright Modernization Office (CMO)

CMO has a critical role in shepherding modernization. CMO is the Office's IT development liaison to the Library's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), which manages and develops the Office's IT services. CMO helps to identify Office needs for the new system and provides that information to OCIO. CMO also facilitates non-IT modernization components, such as business and data analysis, program and project management, IT strategic planning and investment management, and data management to ensure that copyright records are accurate, complete, searchable, and widely available.

Visit copyright.gov/copyright-modernization for more information.