



# United States Copyright Office

The Library of Congress

*"To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries"*  
(U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8)

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**T**he Copyright Office responds to public requests for information and engages in outreach programs to inform the public discussion on copyright issues. In Fiscal Year 2000, the Copyright Office website logged 9.4 million hits, and the Office responded to 383,513 requests for copyright information.

# Public Information and Education



The provision of information on copyright law and its application is a principal function of the Copyright Office. The demand for information on copyright is increasing as the growth in the use of digital technology involves more Americans in copyright issues in the course of their daily lives. The Office both responds to requests for information and advances copyright education by initiating and participating in conferences and meetings on copyright issues.

The Public Information Office responded to 125,000 telephone inquiries, 18,145 letter requests and 11,900 electronic mail requests for information from the public. It also assisted some 12,000 members of the public in person, taking in 23,000 registration applications and close to 3,000 documents for recordation.

The Copyright Office website continued to play a key role in disseminating information to the copyright community and the general public, as the site had 9.4 million hits during the year, a 67% increase over the prior year. Numerous additions and enhancements were made to the website throughout the year. The updated version of the copyright law with the latest amendments was made available on the website in both text and PDF formats, giving the public alternate ways to access the copyright law online. The public can also obtain copies of all the copyright registration forms which were converted to fill-in versions so that applicants can complete the forms on their personal computers and print them out for submission.

For the first time, the Copyright Office made it possible for the public to submit comments electronically in response to a Notice of Inquiry in a rulemaking proceeding dealing with the impact of section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). All initial comments and reply comments received by the Office were posted on the website for public review. The Office made audio transcripts of the Office's hearings in the proceeding available on the website so that a much wider audience could benefit from the discussions.



**NewsNet** is a free, electronic newsletter that alerts subscribers to hearings, deadlines for comment, new and proposed regulations, new publications, and other copyright related subjects. *NewsNet* is available through a free subscription, and each issue is accessible on the Copyright Office website: [www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright).

The Reference and Bibliography Section assisted the Office in completing an exhaustive search of the copyright registrations claimed by each of the fifty states. This data was used in relation to work on the issue of state sovereign immunity.

The total number of titles searched, 63,250, increased 6.6% from the previous year while the number of search reports prepared, 7,413, declined 6.6%.

For the first time, the Certifications and Documents Section began responding to electronic mail requests from the public with the activation of an email address for the section. The Deposit Tracking System was installed to provide improved security and better accountability for deposits retrieved from off-site storage by maintaining an automated record of retrievals and by generating automated periodic notices to return deposits upon completion of work. The section produced for the public 1,244 copies of deposits, 4,218 additional certificates of registration and 844 certifications.

The Copyright Office electronically published 41 issues of *NewsNet* during the year. The number of subscribers to this electronic news service increased to 4,317 by the end of the fiscal year, a 17% rise over the prior year.

The Clerical Support Unit responded to 36,857 letter requests and 64,203 telephone requests from the public for forms and publications. As a result of these requests, a total of 97,055 packages of publications were mailed out to the public.

During the year, 323,466 deposits were processed for storage at the Deposit Copies Storage Unit, constituting some 6,367 cubic feet. The Copyright Office records and deposits stored off-site at the Washington National Records Center were transferred to a private records storage facility in Pennsylvania. This transfer began in December 1999 and continued throughout the fiscal year as some 75,000 cubic feet of records and deposits were transferred at a savings of more than \$140,000 per year.