



The Register of Copyrights of the United States of America
United States Copyright Office - 701 Independence Avenue SE - Washington, DC 20559-6000 - (202) 707-8350

October 18, 2007

Carl Malamud
President and CEO of Public Resources.Org, Inc.
1005 Gravenstein Highway North
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Carl,

I apologize for the delay in responding in writing to your letter. Although we discussed the issues you raised during several telephone conversations, you asked that I confirm in writing the Office's position regarding public access to copyright records. Your specific question concerned bulk access to the copyright catalog of monographs, documents, and serials via the Internet. You also raised the issue of copyright restrictions on these records.

The Copyright Office creates records of all registrations of claims to copyright. Those records contain the title of the work, the name of the author(s), the nature of the authorship being registered, the nature of the work, the name of the copyright claimant, and a description of the scope of the claim. There is no copyright protection in these records—they are in the public domain. All registration records created since January 1, 1978 are available online through our website at <http://www.copyright.gov>. Additionally, the database of the online records is likewise in the public domain.

As you know, our online records are available free of charge to everyone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, there are no limitations on downloading (or harvesting) our records, whether done in bulk or individually. No permission is needed. However, as I mentioned to you, the Library would appreciate it if you would conduct your web harvesting activities during non-prime time (between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. EST). The Library would also appreciate notification of when you will be harvesting so it can monitor performance of its systems. The person you should notify is Mr. Billy Hoppis of the Library's Information Technology Services at bhop@loc.gov.

Finally, I know you realize that corrections and additions are made to these records from time to time. You may wish to relay this fact to your users of our records. If there are any additional issues or questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Peters
U.S. Register of Copyrights