



The Register of Copyrights of the United States of America

United States Copyright Office · 101 Independence Avenue SE · Washington, DC 20559-6000 · (202) 707-8350

October 22, 2007

Mr. Jon Phillips
Business and Community Manager
Creative Commons
171 Second St, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Phillips,


This letter serves to confirm in writing the Office's position regarding public access to copyright records including bulk access to the copyright catalog of registrations and recorded documents via the Internet.

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 the Office's website at <http://www.copyright.gov>. Additionally, the database of the online records is likewise in the public domain.

As you probably know, our online records are available free of charge to anyone 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, the Library of Congress, our parent agency, asks that users conduct web harvesting activities during non-prime time (between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. EST). The Library would also appreciate notification from users when they plan to engage in harvesting activities so it can monitor performance of its IT systems. The person you should notify is Mr. Billy Hoppis of the Library's Information Technology Services at bhop@loc.gov.

Finally, you should be aware that corrections and additions are made to our 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

FOR
MARYBETH
PETERS