Guide to Searching the Copyright Office Catalog

(Registrations and recorded documents from 1978 to the present)

New searching features are available such as:

- Keyword searching

- A single database that contains records of monographs, serials, and recorded documents

- Basic Search screen and Other Search Options screen for advanced searching

- Limit your search by date or a specific item type

- Links to online help is available at the top and bottom of each screen

Click "Search Records" to access the Copyright Office Catalog

Click "Search the Catalog" to begin

About the Catalog

About the Catalog

The Copyright Office Catalog contains approximately 20 million records for works registered and documents recorded with the Copyright Office since 1978.

Included in one integrated database are registrations and preregistrations for books, music, films, sound recordings, maps, software, photographs, art, multimedia, periodicals, magazines, journals, newspapers, etc., as well as records for assignments, transfers, and other documents relating to copyright ownership.

Links to the Copyright Office homepage, Copyright FAQs, and information about services provided by the Office are available at the bottom of each screen.

Online help is always available by selecting links throughout the Catalog and by selecting "Help" from the top or bottom of each screen.

To find out more about searching Copyright Office records and on services provided by the Reference & Bibliography Section, see:

- How to Investigate the Copyright Status of a Work (Circular 22)
- Contact Us Regarding Having the Copyright Office Conduct a Search for You
- The Copyright Card Catalog and the Online Files of the Copyright Office (Circular 23)

Home | Contact Us | Legal Notices | Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) | Library of Congress

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Washington, D.C. 20559-6000
(202) 707-3000

Overview of the Basic Search screen

By using the Basic Search screen you can:

- Specify the search term
- Search by either Title, Name, Keyword, Registration Number, Document Number, Command Keyword

Basic Search by Title

- A Title search finds works by title in the exact word order of the title
- Use this search when the exact title of the work is known
- Type the entire title, or the first few words of the title
- Omit initial articles, A, An, The, El, La, Das, etc.

To retrieve the title . . .	Type. . .
Addicted to hurry; spiritual strategies for slowing down	addicted to hurry
The Lord of the Rings	lord of the rings
Symphony no. 10 in E minor, OP. 93	symphony no 10 in e minor op 93
La Chatte sorte ses grif	chatte sorte ses grif

To perform a search:

- Type your search term in the "Search for": box
- Select the type of search from the "Search by": screen

- Click the "Begin Search" button to perform the search

Sample Search Results

Click a title to view a record from the titles list display

#	Relevance	Full Title	Copyright Number	Date
☐ [1]	▮▮▮▮▮	Suzy Gershman's Born to shop. Paris : the ultimate guide for travelers who love to shop.	CSN0138774	2002
☐ [2]	▮▮▮▮▮	Born to shop. London : the ultimate guide for people who loved to shop / Suzy Gershman.	CSN0137785	2002
☐ [3]	▮▮▮	Born to be.	TX0005844864	2003
☐ [4]	▮▮▮	Born to worship.	V3494D566	2003
☐ [5]	▮▮▮	Born to worship; album / Artist, Esther Smith.	PRE000000080	2003

Preregistration

Records for unpublished works in the process of being prepared for commerical distribution.

Serial

Registrations of periodicals, magazines, journals, and newspapers.

Monograph

Registrations of books, music, films, sound recordings, maps, software, photos, art, and multimedia. Also includes all renewals.

Document

Copyright ownership documents, such as name changes and transfers.

Monograph
Sample Registration Record

Star Wars roleplaying game : Galactic campaign guide / Peter Schweighofer &...

Type of Material: Text

Registration Number / Date: TX0005817949 / 2003-09-19

Title: Star Wars roleplaying game : Galactic campaign guide / Peter Schweighofer & Jo Wiker.

Other Title: Galactic campaign guide

Imprint: Renton, WA : Wizards of the Coast, 2003.

Description: 160 p.

Copyright Claimant: Wizards of the Coast, Inc.

Date of Creation: 2003

Date of Publication: 15Aug03

Authorship on Application: Lucas Film,Ltd., employer for hire.

Title appears in Document: No Related Document Title

Names: Schweighofer, Peter

Wiker, Jo

Wizards of the Coast, Inc.

Lucas Film,Ltd.

Sample Preregistration Record

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Relevance: ▮

Type of Material: Pre-Registration

Type of Work Pre-Registered: Ad/Marketing Photograph

Pre-Registration Number / Date: PRE000000070 / 2006-04-19

Title: ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Copyright Claimant: Denise D. Garrett

Projected Date of Publication: 2006-12-01 (Approximately)

Date of Commencement of Creation of the Work: 2006-04-15

Date of Anticipated Completion: 2006-11-03

Application Title: ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Authorship on Application: Denise D. Garrett.

Description of Pre-Registered Work: Photographs and diagrams for a children's calendar to help with their household chores.

Names: Garrett, Denise D.

Serial
Sample Registration Record

Justice League adventures.

Type of Material: Serial

Title: Justice League adventures.

Serial Publication Year: 2001

Description: print material.

Frequency: Monthly.

Publication History: No. 1, Jan. 2002-.

Issues Registered: no. 1, Jan02. Claimant: DC Comics. Created: 2001; Pub. 2001-11-02; Reg. 2001-12-11; TX0005442586

no. 2, Feb02. Claimant: DC Comics. Created: 2001; Pub. 2001-11-30; Reg. 2002-01-28; TX0005474522

no. 3, Mar02. Claimant: DC Comics. Created: 2001; Pub. 2001-12-28; Reg. 2002-01-28; TX0005474523

Basis of Claim: New matter: additions.

Names: DC Comics

Recorded Document Sample Record

Quigley down under & 7,425 other titles.

Type of Material: Recorded Document
Document Number: V2606P001
Date of Recordation: 1991-06-04
Entire Copyright Document: V2606 P1-206
Date of Execution: as of 15May91
Title: Quigley down under & 7,425 other titles.
Notes: Copyright mortgage and assignment.
Quigley down under & 7,425 other titles.
Party 1: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Holdings, Inc.
Party 2: Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland, N.V.
Links: List of Titles
Names: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Holdings, Inc.
Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland, N.V.

Click to view or print titles associated with this document

Basic Search by Name

- Search by all names, such as author, claimant, party 1, party 2 , etc.
- To search by a personal name, type the last name first name
- To search by a corporate name, type the name in word order

Name type...	Search example...
personal name	Crichton Michael
compound name	Marquez Gabriel Garcia
corporate name	Walt Disney Company

Basic Search   **Other Search Options**

Search For: | brown dan

Search By:

Scroll down for Search Hints

Title (omit initial article A, An, The, El, La, Das etc.)
Name (Crichton Michael; Walt Disney Company)
Keyword
Registration Number (for VAu 598-675 type vau000598675)
Document Number (for V2606 P87 type v2606p087)
Command Keyword

25 records per page   Begin Search   Reset   Set Search Limits

Basic Search by Keyword

- A Keyword search finds words, or phrases located *anywhere* in the record
- Use " " to surround exact phrases
- Type words or phrases in any order. All words will be searched, including "and", "the", etc.
- Use ? to search for a variation of a word, for example comput? finds compute, computer, computation
- Use + before words that must appear in every record retrieved
- Use ! before words that must not appear in any record retrieved
- Results will be ranked by relevance

Basic Search by Copyright Registration Number

- *All Copyright registration numbers must have a total of 12 characters*
- Type 2 letters followed by 10 numbers, or 3 letters followed by 9 numbers
- Omit spaces and hyphens when typing the number
- Add leading zeroes to the numeric portion of the registration number

To retrieve . . .	Type. . .
SR-320-918	sr0000320918
VAu-598-764	vau000598764
Pre000000020	Pre000000020

Basic Search by Copyright Recorded Document Number

- *All document numbers must have a total of nine characters*
- The number after the "v" is always 4 digits; the number after the "p" or "d" is always 3 digits
  - **Documents before V3400 use P + page number**
  - **Documents after V3400 use D + page number**
  - *Note:* **V5000 and V8000 also use P + page number.**
- Omit spaces when typing the number

To retrieve . . .	Type. . .
V2606 P87	v2606p087
V3510 D565	v3510d565

Setting Search Limits

- Select methods of limiting your searches below.

- Choose multiple **Item Types** by holding down the **<Ctrl>** key while selecting.

- Click on "**Set Search Limits**." The message "**Search limits are in effect until you click on _Clear Search Limits_**" will appear.

- Search limits will remain in effect until you specifically clear them or until you close your browser.

Limit by Date

- Limit your search by Date in 4 ways

    - Search only one year

    - Search a range of years

    - Search for all years before a date

    - Search for all years after a date

Limit by Item Type

- Use this limit to find a specific type of work
- Select multiple Item Types by holding down the <CTRL> key and clicking a term (Example: Limit search to Music and Sound Recordings)
- Limit your search to:
    - Recorded Documents
    - Text
    - Serials
    - Music
    - Maps
    - Sound Recordings
    - Computer Files
    - Motion Pictures
    - Visual Materials
    - Kits
    - Mask Works
    - Preregistration

Overview of "Other Search Options"

- Search for specific catalog records without knowing the complete title or full personal or corporate name
- Search by keyword using Boolean operators to combine or exclude words and phrases

Boolean Searching

- Use Boolean operators to search for combinations of words or phrases. Enter Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) in either uppercase or lowercase
- Boolean operators **may** be used with the **Basic Search** *Command Keyword* or with **Other Search Options**.
- Boolean operators **may not** be used with the **Basic Search** types *Title, Name, Keyword, Registration Number or Document Number*

Concept	Search Examples	Retrieval Formula
AND	Rodgers **AND** Hammerstein "Civil war" **AND** Virginia rock **AND** roll	Retrieves only records containing both terms.
OR	eighties **OR** 80s **OR** 1980s livin **OR** living email **OR** e-mail **OR** "electronic mail"	Retrieves records containing either one or more terms.
NOT	Mexico **NOT** new jockey **NOT** disc "Civil war" **NOT** American	Excludes records containing the second term.
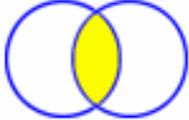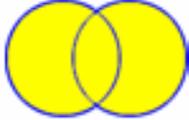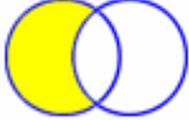
How to Use Boolean Operators

- **AND** narrows the search by requiring all terms to be found in the record

- **OR** broadens the search by retrieving records if one or more of the terms is present

- **NOT** excludes terms from the search (use carefully, because NOT may eliminate relevant material inadvertently)

How to use "Other Search Options"

- Type a word or phrase in the "Search for:" box

- Select "all of these", "any of these", "as a phrase" from the drop-down list

  - "All of these": all of the words you type in the "Search for:" box must appear in the record
  - "Any of these": at least one of the words you type in the "Search for:" box will appear in the record
  - "As a phrase": the words you type in the "Search for:" box must appear in the record in the order typed

- Select an index name (Keyword anywhere is the default index and performs the broadest search)

- Click the "Begin Search" button to perform the search, OR

- Click AND, OR, NOT and fill in the next set of "Search for:" boxes

Sample Search

Search for "*inner peace*" as "*all of these*"
in a title field and "*weiss*" as a claimant.

Thank you for viewing this tutorial

Ready to search? [Click here](#)

For additional help, please contact us at
copysearch@loc.gov or telephone
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Section at (202) 707-6850