The Copyright Office announces that documents sent to its Renewals and Documents Section for recordation after May 16 will be filmed upon receipt rather than after examination and recordation as has been the practice, making them accessible to the public much more quickly than in the past. Because new facilities have been installed in the Copyright Office for filming documents, microfilms of both documents and other materials related to documents such as accompanying letters of transmittal can be made available more quickly.

Documents will be available for public viewing on microfilm reader-printers located in the Copyright Card Catalog, Room LM-459 of the Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C.; the Copyright Card Catalog is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Because documents will be filmed before they have been examined and cataloged, the presence of a document on the microfilm does not indicate that the document has been recorded, or, if recorded, that the volume and page number appearing on the film will be that ultimately assigned to the document in Copyright Office records.

The Copyright Act, in section 205, title 17, U.S.C., provides that a document which transfers copyright ownership or any other document pertaining to a copyright may be recorded in the Copyright Office, providing the requirements of the copyright statute are met. Transfers of exclusive rights may be assignments, mortgages, grants of exclusive licenses, wills, and other documents of transfer. Documents pertaining to a copyright may include exclusive and nonexclusive licenses, contracts, mortgages, powers of attorney, certificates of change of corporate title, wills, and decrees of distribution.

To be recorded in the Copyright Office, documents must meet all of the requirements of the copyright law and Copyright Office regulations as set out in Copyright Office Circular R12, "Recordation of Transfers and Other Documents," and must be accompanied by the prescribed fee set out in that circular.

Recording a document with the Copyright Office provides certain advantages, including:

- establishing a public record of the contents of the transfer or document;
- under certain conditions providing "constructive notice" to the public of the facts stated in documents;
- under certain conditions establishing priorities between conflicting transfers and between conflicting transfers and nonexclusive licenses.

Transfers of copyright and other documents pertaining to a copyright should be submitted to:

Renewals and Documents Section, LM-444
Examining Division
Copyright Office
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20559

To request Circular R12 or further information, write:

Information and Publications Section, LM-455
Copyright Office
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20559

or leave a recorded message requesting Circular R12 on the Forms Hotline, (202) 287-9100.