FINAL REGULATION

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

The following excerpt is taken from Volume 51, Number 36 of the Federal Register for Monday, February 24, 1986 (pp. 6402-6410)
mailing procedures. The “accompanied by” requirement was, therefore, interpreted liberally. However, the volume of registration material sent separately has increased and the impact on workflow has been significant. The efficiency of the automation procedures being instituted in the Copyright Office has likewise been impaired. For these reasons, the Office intends to apply more strictly the requirement of 17 U.S.C. 408(b) that one deposit may satisfy the requirements of both 17 U.S.C. 407 and 408 only if a deposit is “accompanied by the prescribed application and fee.”


Two comments suggested the addition of the term “semiconductor chip products” to § 202.20(c)(2)(vii), which relates to the forms of machine-readable copies submitted. In keeping with that suggestion we have added “semiconductor chip products” to § 202.20(c)(2)(vii) in the final regulations as an example of a machine-readable copy in which a computer program may be embodied.

4. Deposit of “Identifying Portions” of Computer Programs.

Two comments addressed the required deposit for revised computer programs. The first suggested an alternative definition for the term “identifying portions” in § 202.20(c)(2)(vii)(A), that would allow the deposit of any 50 pages of representative material for all computer programs. It was maintained that because computer programs have a modular structure, with one or more major components and numerous subroutines, it is difficult to make an attempt to clarify the type of material to which it applies since two comments indicated uncertainty as to the requisite deposit. The first questioned whether deposit of the actual diskette was required. The second comment assumed that the deposit consists of a copy of a manual, for example, and a listing printout from a diskette, and that the diskette itself is not required.

By way of explanation, where a published literary work is embodied in copies containing both visually-perceptible and machine-readable material, § 202.20(c)(2)(ix) requires the deposit of both the visually-perceptible material and identifying material for the machine-readable portions, such as the first and last 25 pages of a computer program; deposit of the diskette itself is not required.

The second comment also raised questions about the required deposit where registration for only part of a work is sought. The deposit must, in any event, comply with the complete copy requirement of § 202.20(b)(2)(ii).


The heading of § 202.20(c)(2)(ix), that was entitled “Works with visually-perceptible and machine-readable copies” in the proposed regulations, has been changed to “Copies containing both visually-perceptible and machine-readable material.” In an attempt to clarify the type of material to which it applies since two comments indicated uncertainty as to the requisite deposit. The first questioned whether deposit of the actual diskette was required. The second comment assumed that the deposit consists of a copy of a manual, for example, and a listing printout from a diskette, and that the diskette itself is not required.

By way of explanation, where a published literary work is embodied in copies containing both visually-perceptible and machine-readable material, § 202.20(c)(2)(ix) requires the deposit of both the visually-perceptible material and identifying material for the machine-readable portions, such as the first and last 25 pages of a computer program; deposit of the diskette itself is not required.

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6. Non-viewable Copies of Motion Pictures Submitted for Copyright Registration.

The proposed regulations provided that for motion pictures and phonorecords in formats that cannot be examined on equipment in the Examinining Division of the Copyright Office, the deposit be accompanied by a description which includes enough information to enable the Examinining Division to determine copyrightability. Two comments argued that the Office’s treatment of non-viewable motion pictures and non-playable phonorecords is inconsistent with registration of claims to copyright in computer programs under the rule of doubt where the deposit consists of object code, because in each case the Office cannot “read” the deposit; yet in the case of motion pictures and phonorecords, depositors are allowed to deposit identifying material. To be consistent, the comments stated that the Office should permit the use of alternate means to identify the copyrightable material of computer programs.

In most cases, the reason object code is deposited is to preserve possible trade secret protection that might be in the program. A proceeding is presently pending concerning the deposit of computer programs and other works containing trade secrets (48 FR 22951) and commentators will have the opportunity to make their positions known on these issues in connection with that proceeding.

7. Registration and Deposit of Databases.

The Office also received comments related to the registration and deposit of databases, which have not been included as part of these amended regulations. A separate Notice of Inquiry has been issued, specifically limited to this rapidly developing technology of storing and retrieving information. See 50 FR 24240 (June 10, 1985). Accordingly, the feasibility of group and other registration of databases is presently under review and will be the subject of a separate rulemaking.

8. Regulatory Flexibility Act Statement.

With respect to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Copyright Office takes the position that this Act does not apply to Copyright Office rulemaking. The Copyright Office is a department of the Library of Congress and is part of the legislative branch. Neither the Library of Congress nor the Copyright Office is an “agency” within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act of June 11, 1946, as amended (title 5 Chapter 5 of the U.S. Code, Subchapter II and Chapter 7). The Regulatory Flexibility Act consequently does not apply to the Copyright Office since that Act affects only those entities of the Federal Government that are agencies as defined in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Alternatively, if it is later determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Copyright Office is an “agency” subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Register of Copyrights has determined and hereby certifies that this regulation will have no significant impact on small businesses.

List of Subjects in 37 CFR Part 202

Claims, Claims to copyright. Copyright. Registration requirements.

Final Regulations

PART 202—[AMENDED]

In consideration of the foregoing, Part 202 of 37 CFR, Chapter II is amended in the manner set forth below.

1. The authority citation for Part 202 is revised to read as follows:


2. Sections 202.19, 202.20, and 202.21 are revised to read as follows:

The Copyright Office was not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act before 1976, and it is now subject to it only in areas specified by section 702(j) of the Copyright Act (i.e., “all actions taken by the Register of Copyrights under this title [72] except with respect to the making of copies of copyright deposits,” 17 U.S.C. 706(b)). The Copyright Act does not make the Office an “agency” as defined in the Administrative Procedure Act. For example, personnel actions taken by the Office are not subject to APA FOIA requirements.
§ 202.19 Deposit of published copies or phonorecords for the Library of Congress.

(a) General. This section prescribes rules pertaining to the deposit of copies and phonorecords of published works for the Library of Congress under section 407 of title 17 of the United States Code, as amended by Pub. L. 94–553. The provisions of this section are not applicable to the deposit of copies and phonorecords for purposes of copyright registration under section 408 of title 17, except as expressly adopted in §202.20 of these regulations.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

(1) (i) The "best edition" of a work is the edition, published in the United States at any time before the date of deposit, that the Library of Congress determines to be most suitable for its purposes.

(ii) Criteria for selection of the "best edition" from among two or more published editions of the same version of the same work are set forth in the statement entitled "Best Edition of Published Copyrighted Works for the Collections of the Library of Congress" (hereafter referred to as the "Best Edition Statement") in effect at the time of deposit. Copies of the Best Edition Statement are available upon request made to the Deposits and Acquisitions Division of the Copyright Office.

(iii) Where no specific criteria for the selection of the "best edition" are established in the Best Edition Statement, that edition which, in the judgment of the Library of Congress, represents the highest quality for its purposes shall be considered the "best edition". In such cases:

(A) When the Copyright Office is aware that two or more editions of a work have been published it will consult with other appropriate officials of the Library of Congress to obtain instructions as to the "best edition" and (except in cases for which special relief is granted) will require deposit of that edition; and

(B) When a potential depositor is uncertain which of two or more published editions comprises the "best edition", inquiry should be made to the Deposits and Acquisitions Division of the Copyright Office.

(iv) Where differences between two or more "editions" of a work represent variations in copyrightable content, each edition is considered a separate version, and hence a different work, for the purpose of this section, and criteria of "best edition" based on such differences do not apply.

(2) A "complete" copy includes all elements comprising the unit of publication of the best edition of the work, including elements that, if considered separately, would not be copyrightable subject matter or would otherwise be exempt from mandatory deposit requirements under paragraph (c) of this section. In the case of sound recordings, a "complete" phonorecord includes the phonorecord together with any printed or other visually perceptible material published with such phonorecord (such as textual or pictorial matter appearing on record sleeves or album covers, or embodied in leaflets or booklets included in a sleeve, album, or other container). In the case of a musical composition published in copies only, or in both copies and phonorecords:

(i) If the only publication of copies in the United States took place by the rental, lease, or lending of a full score and parts, a full score is a "complete" copy; and

(ii) If the only publication of copies in the United States took place by the rental, lease, or lending of a conductor's score and parts, a conductor's score is a "complete" copy.

In the case of a motion picture, a copy is "complete" if the reproduction of all of the visual and aural elements comprising the copyrightable subject matter in the work is intact, undamaged, undeteriorated, and free of splices, and if the copy itself and its physical housing are free of any defects that would interfere with the performance of the work or that would cause mechanical, visual, or audible defects or distortions.

(3) The terms "copies," "collective work," "device," "fixed," "literary work," "machine," "motion picture," "phonorecord," "publication," "sound recording," and "useful article," and their variant forms, have the meanings given to them in section 101 of title 17.

(4) "Title 17" means title 17 of the United States Code, as amended by Pub. L. 94–553.

(c) Exemptions from deposit requirements. The following categories of material are exempt from the deposit requirements of section 407(a) of title 17:

(1) Diagrams and models illustrating scientific or technical works or formulating scientific or technical information in linear or three-dimensional form, such as an architectural or engineering blueprint, plan, or design, a mechanical drawing, or an anatomical model.

(2) Greeting cards, picture postcards, and stationery.

(3) Lectures, sermons, speeches, and addresses when published individually and not as a collection of the works of one or more authors.

(4) Literary, dramatic, and musical works published only as embodied in phonorecords. This category does not exempt the owner of copyright, or of the exclusive right of publication, in a sound recording resulting from the fixation of such works in a phonorecord from the applicable deposit requirements for the sound recording.

(5) Literary works, including computer programs and automated databases, published in the United States only in the form of machine-readable copies (such as magnetic tape or disks, punched cards, or the like) from which the work cannot or only be visually perceived except with the aid of a machine or device. Works published in a form requiring the use of a machine or device for purposes of optical enlargement (such as film, filmstrips, slide films and works published in any variety of microform), and works published in visually perceivable form but used in connection with optical scanning devices, are not within this category and are subject to the applicable deposit requirements.

(6) Three-dimensional sculptural works, and any works published only as reproduced in or on jewelry, dolls, toys, games, plaques, floor coverings, wallpaper and similar commercial wall coverings, textiles and other fabrics, packaging material, or any useful article. Globes, relief models, and similar cartographic representations of area are not within this category and are subject to the applicable deposit requirements.

(7) Prints, labels, and other advertising material, including catalogs, published in connection with the rental, leasing, licensing, or sale of articles of merchandise, works of authorship, or services.

(8) Tests, and answer material for tests when published separately from other literary works.

(9) Works first published as individual contributions to collective works. This category does not exempt the owner of copyright, or of the exclusive right of publication, in the collective work as a whole, from the applicable deposit requirements for the collective work.

(10) Works first published outside the United States and later published in the United States without change in copyrightable content.

(iii) Registration for the work was made under 17 U.S.C. 408 before the work was published in the United States; or

(ii) registration for the work was made under 17 U.S.C. 408 after the work was published in the United States but before a demand for deposit is made under 17 U.S.C. 407(d).

(11) Works published only as embodied in a soundtrack that is an integral part of a motion picture. This category does not exempt the owner of copyright, or of the exclusive right of publication, in the motion picture, from the applicable deposit requirements for the motion picture.

(12) Motion pictures that consist of television transmission programs and that have been published, if at all, only by reason of a license or other grant to a nonprofit institution of the right to make a fixation of such programs directly from a transmission to the public, with or without the right to make further uses of such fixations.

(d) Nature of required deposit. (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (d)(2) of this section, the deposit required to satisfy the provisions of
section 407(a) of title 17 shall consist of:

(i) In the case of published works other than sound recordings, two complete copies of the best edition; and
(ii) In the case of published sound recordings, two complete phonorecords of the best edition.

(2) In the case of certain published works not exempt from deposit requirements under paragraph (c) of this section, the following special provisions shall apply:

(i) In the case of published three-dimensional cartographic representations of area, such as globes and relief maps, the deposit of one complete copy of the best edition of the work will suffice in lieu of the two copies required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(ii) In the case of published motion pictures, the deposit of one complete copy of the best edition of the work will suffice in lieu of the two copies required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(iii) In the case of any published work not exempt from deposit under paragraph (c) of this section, the Register of Copyrights may, after consultation with other appropriate officials of the Library of Congress and upon such conditions as the Register may determine after such consultation:

(A) Grant an exemption from the deposit requirements of section 407(s) of title 17 on a basis for single works or series or groups of works; or
(B) permit the deposit of one copy or phonorecord, or alternative identifying material, in lieu of the two copies or phonorecords required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(iv) In any case where an individual author is the owner of copyright in a published pictorial or graphic work and (A) less than five copies of the work have been published and sold or offered for sale in a limited edition consisting of no more than three hundred numbered copies, the deposit of one complete copy of the best edition of the work or, alternatively, the deposit of photographs or other identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations and clearly showing the displayed image.

(v) In the case of a musical composition published in copies only, or in both copies and phonorecords, if the only publication of copies in the United States took place by rental, lease, or lending, the deposit of one complete copy of the best edition will suffice in lieu of the two copies required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(vi) In the case of published multimedia kits, that include literary works, audiovisual works, sound recordings, or any combination of such works, the deposit of one complete copy of the best edition will suffice in lieu of the two copies required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(vii) In the case of published phonorecords deposited in the Copyright Office will be considered to be deposited only in compliance with section 407 of title 17 unless they are accompanied by an application for registration of a claim to copyright in the work represented by the deposit, and either a registration fee or a deposit account number on the application. Copies or phonorecords deposited without such an accompanying application and either a fee or a deposit account notation will not be connected with or held for future applications, and will not satisfy the deposit provisions of section 408 of title 17 or § 202.20 of these regulations.

(2) All copies and phonorecords deposited in the Copyright Office under section 407 of title 17, unless accompanied by written instructions to the contrary, will be considered to be deposited by the person or persons named in the copyright notice on the work.

(3) Upon request by the depositor made at the time of the deposit, the Copyright Office will issue a certificate of receipt for the deposit of copies or phonorecords of a work under this section. Certificates of receipt will be issued in response to requests made after the date of deposit only if the requesting party is identified in the records of the Copyright Office as having made the deposit. In either case, requests for a certificate of receipt must be in writing and accompanied by a fee of $2. A certificate of receipt will include identification of the depositor, the work deposited, and the nature and format of the copy or phonorecord deposited, together with the date of receipt.

§ 202.20 Deposit of copies and phonorecords for copyright registration.

(a) General. This section prescribes rules pertaining to the deposit of copies and phonorecords of published and unpublished works for the purpose of copyright registration under section 408 of title 17 of the United States Code, as amended by Pub. L. 94-553. The provisions of this section are not applicable to the deposit of copies and phonorecords for the Library of Congress under section 407 of title 17, except as expressly adopted in § 202.19 of these regulations.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

1. The “best edition” of a work has the meaning set forth in § 202.19(b)(1) of these regulations.

2. A “complete” copy or phonorecord means the following:

(i) Unpublished works. Subject to the requirements of paragraph (b)(2)(vi) of this section, a “complete” copy or phonorecord of an unpublished work is a copy or phonorecord representing the entire copyrightable content of the work for which registration is sought; or
(ii) Published works. Subject to the...
requirements of paragraphs (b)(2) (iii) through (vi) of this section, a “complete” copy or phonorecord of a published work includes all elements comprising the applicable unit of publication of the work, including elements that, if considered separately, would not be copyrightable subject matter. However, even where certain physically separable elements included in the applicable unit of publication are missing from the deposit, a copy or phonorecord will be considered “complete” for purposes of registration where:

[A] The copy or phonorecord deposited contains all parts of the work for which copyright registration is sought; and

[B] The removal of the missing elements did not physically damage the copy or phonorecord or garble its contents; and

[C] The work is exempt from the mandatory deposit requirements under section 407 of title 17 of the United States Code and § 202.19(c) of these regulations, or the copy deposited consists entirely of a container, wrapper, or holder, such as an envelope, sleeve, jacket, slipcase, box, bag, folder, binder, or other receptacle acceptable for deposit under paragraph (c)(2) of this section;

(iii) Contributions to collective works. In the case of a published contribution to a collective work, a “complete” copy or phonorecord is the entire collective work including the contribution; or in the case of a newspaper, the entire section including the contribution;

(iv) Sound recordings. In the case of published sound recordings, a “complete” phonorecord has the meaning set forth in § 202.19(b)(2) of these regulations;

(v) Musical scores. In the case of a musical composition published in copies only, or in both copies and phonorecords:

(A) If the only publication of copies took place by the rental, lease, or lending of a full score and parts, a full score is a “complete” copy; and

(B) If the only publication of copies took place by the rental, lease, or lending of a conductor’s score and parts, a conductor’s score is a “complete” copy;

(vi) Motion pictures. In the case of a published or unpublished motion picture, a copy is “complete” if the reproduction of all of the visual and aural elements comprising the copyrightable subject matter in the work is clean, undamaged, undeteriorated, and free of splices, and if the copy itself and its physical housing are free of any defects that would interfere with the performance of the work or that would cause mechanical, visual, or audible defects or distortions.

(3) The terms “copy,” “collective work,” “device,” “fixed,” “literary work,” “machine,” “motion picture,” “phonorecord,” “publication,” “sound recording,” “transmission program,” and “useful article,” and their variant forms, have the meanings given to them in section 101 of title 17.

(4) A “secure test” is a nonmarketed test administered under supervision at specified centers on specific dates, all copies of which are accounted for and either destroyed or returned to restricted locked storage following each administration. For purposes of a test is not marketed if copies are not sold but it is distributed and used in such a manner that ownership and control of copies remain with the test sponsor or publisher.


(6) For the purposes of determining the applicable deposit requirements under this § 202.20 only, the following shall be considered as unpublished motion pictures: motion pictures that consist of television transmission programs and that have been published, if at all, only by reason of a license or other grant to a nonprofit institution of the right to make a fixation of such programs directly from a transmission to the public, with or without the right to make further uses of such fixations.

(c) Nature of required deposit. (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the deposit required to accompany an application for registration of claim to copyright under section 406 of title 17 shall consist of:

(i) In the case of unpublished works, one complete copy or phonorecord.

(ii) In the case of works first published in the United States before January 1, 1978, two complete copies or phonorecords of each work as first published.

(iii) In the case of works first published in the United States on or after January 1, 1978, two complete copies or phonorecords of the best edition.

(iv) In the case of works first published outside of the United States, whenever published, one complete copy or phonorecord of the work as first published. For the purposes of this section, any works simultaneously first published within and outside of the United States shall be considered to be first published in the United States.

(2) In the case of certain works, the special provisions set forth in this clause shall apply. In any case where this clause specifies that one copy or phonorecord may be submitted, that copy or phonorecord shall represent the best edition, or the work as first published, as set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(i) General. In the following cases the deposit of one complete copy or phonorecord will suffice in lieu of two copies or phonorecords:

(A) Published three-dimensional cartographic representations of area, such as globes and relief models.

(B) Published diagrams illustrating scientific or technical works or formulating scientific or technical information in linear or other two-dimensional form, such as an architectural or engineering blueprint, or a mechanical drawing.

(C) Published greeting cards, picture postcards, and stationery.

(D) Lectures, sermons, speeches, and addresses published individually and as a collection of the works of one or more authors.

(E) Musical compositions published in copies only, or in both copies and phonorecords, if the only publication of copies took place by rental, lease, or lending.

(F) Published multimedia kits or any part thereof.

(G) Works exempted from the requirement of depositing identifying material under paragraph (c)(2)(ii)(B)(5) of this section.

(H) Literary, dramatic, and musical works published only as embodied in phonorecords, although this category does not exempt the owner of copyright in sound recordings.

(I) Choreographic works, pantomimes, literary, dramatic, and musical works published only as embodied in motion pictures.

(J) Published works in the form of two-dimensional games, decals, fabric patches or emblems, calendars, instructions for needle work, needle work and craft kits; and

(K) Works reproduced on three-dimensional containers such as boxes, cases, and cartons.

(ii) Motion pictures. In the case of published or unpublished motion pictures, the deposit of one complete copy will suffice. The deposit of a copy or copies for any published or unpublished motion picture must be accompanied by a separate description of its contents, such as a continuity, pressbook, or synopsis. In any case where the deposit copy or copies required for registration of a motion picture cannot be viewed for examining purposes on equipment in the Examining Division of the Copyright Office, the description accompanying the deposit must comply with paragraphs (h)(2) and (h)(6) of these regulations. The Library of Congress, at its sole discretion, may, after examining the deposit, determine that it is not subject to registration. In any case, the deposit copy or copies of such motion picture must be kept in the custody of the Library of Congress, and in any event of termination of such an agreement by the Library, it shall not be subject to reinstatement, nor shall the deposit or any successor in interest of the depositor be entitled to any similar or subsequent agreement with the Library.
unlike the sole discretion of the Library it would be in the best interests of the Library to reinstate the agreement or enter into a new agreement. In the case of unpublished motion pictures (including television transmission programs that have been fixed and transmitted to the public, but have not been published), the deposit of identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations may be made and will suffice in lieu of an actual copy.

(iii) Holograms. In the case of any work deposited in the form of a three-dimensional hologram, the copy or copies shall be accompanied by:
(A) Precise instructions for displaying the image fixed in the hologram; and
(B) Photographs or other identifying material complying with § 202.21 of these regulations and clearly showing the displayed image.

The number of sets of instructions and identifying material shall be the same as the number of copies required. In the case of a work in the form of a two-dimensional hologram, the image of which is visible without the use of a machine or device, one actual copy of the work shall be deposited.

(iv) Certain pictorial and graphic works. In the case of any unpublished pictorial or graphic work, deposit of identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations may be made and will suffice in lieu of deposit of an actual copy of the case if published or of identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations, may be made and will suffice in lieu of deposit of two actual copies where an individual author is the owner of copyright. and either:
(A) Less than five copies of the work have been published; or
(B) The work has been published and sold or offered for sale in a limited edition consisting of no more than 300 numbered copies.

(v) Commercial prints and labels. In the case of prints, labels, and other advertising matter, including catalogs, published in connection with the rental, lease, lending, licensing, or sale of articles of merchandise, works of authorship, or services, the deposit of one complete copy will suffice in lieu of two copies. Where the print or label is published in a larger work, such as a newspaper or other periodical, one copy of the entire page or pages upon which it appears may be submitted in lieu of the entire larger work. In the case of prints or labels physically inseparable from a three-dimensional object, identifying material complying with § 202.21 of these regulations must be submitted rather than an actual copy or copies except under the conditions of paragraph (c)(2)(i)(B)(4) of this section.

(vi) Tests. In the case of tests, and answer material for tests, published separately from other literary works, the deposit of one complete copy will suffice in lieu of two copies. In the case of any security test the Copyright Office will return the deposit to the applicant promptly after examination: Provided, That sufficient portions, description, or the like are retained so as to constitute a sufficient archival record of the deposit.

(vii) Computer programs and databases embodied in machine-readable copies. In cases where a computer program, compilation, statistical compendium or the like, if unpublished is fixed, or if published is published only in the form of machine-readable copies (such as magnetic tape or disks, punched cards, semiconductor chip products, or the like) from which the work cannot ordinarily be perceived except with the aid of a machine or device, one deposit shall consist of:
(A) For published or unpublished computer programs, one copy of identifying portions of the program, reproduced in a form visually perceptible without the aid of a machine or device, either on paper or in microform. For purposes of this subsection, "identifying portions" shall mean either the first and last 25 pages or equivalent units of the program if reproduced on paper, or at least the first and last 25 pages or equivalent units of the program if reproduced in microform, together with the title of the program, the date of revision, if any, if the program is 50 pages or less, the required deposit will be the entire work. In the case of revised versions of such works, if the revisions occur throughout the entire computer program, the deposit of the first and last 25 pages will suffice: if the revisions are not contained in the first and last 25 pages, the deposit should consist of at least 50 pages representative of the revised material.

(B) For published and unpublished automated databases, compilations, statistical compendia, and other literary works so fixed or published, one copy of identifying portions of the work, reproduced in a form visually perceptible without the aid of a machine or device, either on paper or in microform. For these purposes:
(1) "Identifying portions" shall mean either the first and last 25 pages or equivalent units of the work if reproduced on paper, or at least the first and last 25 pages or equivalent units of the work if reproduced in microform, or, in the case of automated databases comprising separate and distinct data files, representative portions of each separate data file consisting of either 50 complete data records from each file or the entire file, whichever is less; and (2) "data file" and "file" mean a group of data records pertaining to a common subject matter, regardless of the physical size of the records or the number of data items included in them. (In the case of revised versions of such databases, the portions deposited must contain representative data records which have been added or modified.) In any case where the deposit comprises representative portions of any separate file of an automated database as indicated above, it shall be accompanied by a typed or printed descriptive statement containing the title of the database; the name and address of the copyright claimant; the name and content of each separate file within the database, including the subject matter involved, the origin(s) of the data, and the approximate number of individual records within the file; and a description of the exact contents of any machine-readable copyright notice employed in or with the work and the manner and frequency with which it is displayed (e.g., at user's terminal only at sign-on, or continuously on terminal display, or on printouts, etc.). If a visually perceptible copyright notice is placed on any copies of the work (such as magnetic tapes or their container) a sample of such notice must also accompany the statement.

(viii) Machine-readable copies of works other than computer programs and databases. Where a literary, musical, pictorial, graphic, or audiovisual work, or a sound recording, except for literary works which are computer programs, databases, compilations, statistical compendia or the like, if unpublished has been fixed or, if published, has been published only in machine-readable form, the deposit must consist of identifying material. The type of identifying material submitted should generally be appropriate to the type of work embodied in machine-readable form, but in all cases should be that which best represents the copyrightable content of the work. In all cases the identifying material must include the title of the work. A synopsis may also be requested in addition to the other deposit materials as appropriate in the discretion of the Copyright Office. In the case of any published work subject to this section, the identifying material must include a representation of the copyright notice, if one exists.

Identifying material requirements for certain types of works are specified below. In the case of the types of works listed below, the requirements specified shall apply except that, in any case where the specific requirements are not appropriate for a given work the form of the identifying material required will be determined by the Copyright Office in consultation with the applicant, but the Copyright Office will make the final determination of the acceptability of the identifying material.

(A) For pictorial or graphic works, the deposit shall consist of identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations.

(B) For audiovisual works, the deposit shall consist of either a videotape of the
work depicting representative portions of the copyrightable content, or a series of photographs or drawings, depicting representative portions of the work, plus in all cases a separate synopsis of the work; 
(C) For musical compositions, the deposit shall consist of a transcription of the entire work such as a score, or a reproduction of the entire work on an audiocassette or other phonorecord;
(D) For sound recordings, the deposit shall consist of a reproduction of the entire work on an audiocassette or other phonorecord;
(E) For literary works, the deposit shall consist of a transcription of representative portions of the work including the first and last 25 pages or equivalent units, and five or more pages indicative of the remainder.

(x) Copies containing both visually-perceptible and machine-readable material. Where a published literary work is embodied in copies containing both visually-perceptible and machine-readable material, the deposit shall consist of the visually-perceptible material and identifying portions of the machine-readable material, which also include:

(x) Works reproduced in or on sheetlike materials. In the case of any unpublished work that is fixed, or any published work that is published, only in the form of a two-dimensional reproduction on sheetlike materials such as textiles and other fabrics, wallpaper and similar wall coverings, carpeting, floor tile, and similar commercial floor coverings, and wrapping paper and similar packaging material, the deposit shall consist of one copy in the form of an actual swatch or piece of such material sufficient to show all elements of the work in which copyright is claimed and the copyright notice appearing on the work, if any. If the work consists of a repeated pictorial or graphic design, the complete design and at least part of one repetition must be shown. If the sheetlike material in or on which a published work has been reproduced has been embodied in or attached to a two-dimensional object, such as furniture, or any other two-dimensional manufactured article, and the work has been published only in that form, the deposit must consist of identifying material complying with § 202.21 of these regulations instead of a copy or copies: 

(i) Any three-dimensional sculptural work, including any illustration or formulation of artistic expression or information in three-dimensional form. Examples of such works include statues, carvings, ceramics, moldings, constructions, models, and maquettes; and

(ii) Any two-dimensional or three-dimensional work that, if unpublished, has been fixed, or, if published, has been published in jewelry, dolls, toys, games, except as provided in paragraph (c)(2)(ix)(B)(3) below, or any three-dimensional useful article.

(B) In the following cases the requirements of paragraph (c)(2)(xi)(A) of this section for the deposit of identifying material shall not apply:

(1) Three-dimensional cartographic representations of area, such as globes and relief models;

(2) Works that have been fixed or published in or on a useful article that comprises one of the elements of the unit of publication of an educational or institutional work, which also includes a literary or audiovisual work, a sound recording, or any combination of such works;

(3) Published games consisting of multiple parts that are packaged and published in a box or similar container with flat sides and with dimensions of no more than 2.25 x 2.25 inches;

(4) Works reproduced on three-dimensional containers or holders such as boxes, cases, and cartons, where the container or holder can be readily opened out, unfolded, slid at the corners, or in some other way made adaptable for flat storage, and the copy, when flattened, does not exceed 96 inches in any dimension; or

(5) Any three-dimensional sculptural work that, if unpublished, has been fixed, or, if published, has been published only in the form of jewelry cast in base metal which does not exceed four inches in any dimension.

(xii) Soundtracks. For separate registration of an unpublished work that is fixed, or a published work that is published, only as embodied in a soundtrack that is an integral part of a motion picture, the deposit of identifying material in compliance with § 202.21 of these regulations will suffice in lieu of an actual copy of the motion picture.

(xiii) Oversize deposits. In any case where the deposit otherwise required by this section exceeds 96 inches in any dimension, identifying material complying with § 202.21 of these regulations must be submitted instead of an actual copy or copies.

(xiv) Pictorial advertising material. In the case of published pictorial advertising material except for advertising material published in connection with motion pictures, the deposit of either one copy as published or prepublication material consisting of camera-ready copy is acceptable.

(xv) Contributions to collective works. In the case of published contributions to collective works, the deposit of either one complete copy of the best edition of the entire collective work, the complete separate containing the contribution if published in a newspaper, the entire page containing the contribution, the contribution cut from the paper in which it appeared, or a photocopy of the contribution itself as it was published in the collective work, will suffice in lieu of two complete copies of the entire collective work.

(xvi) Phonorecords. In any case where the deposit phonorecord or phonorecords submitted for registration of a claim to copyright is inaudible on audio playback devices in the Examining Division of the Copyright Office, the Office will seek an appropriate deposit in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Special relief. (1) In any case the Register of Copyrights may, after consultation with other appropriate officials of the Library of Congress and upon such conditions as the Register may determine after such consultation:

(i) Permit the deposit of one copy or phonorecord, or alternative identifying material, in lieu of the one or two copies or phonorecords otherwise required by paragraph (c)(1) of this section;

(ii) Permit the deposit of incomplete copies or phonorecords, or copies or phonorecords other than those normally comprising the best edition; or

(iii) Permit the deposit of an actual copy or copies, in lieu of the identifying material otherwise required by this section; or

(iv) Permit the deposit of identifying material which does not comply with § 202.21 of these regulations.

(2) Any decision as to whether to grant such special relief, and the conditions under which special relief is to be granted, shall be made by the Register of Copyrights after consultation with other appropriate officials of the Library of Congress, and shall be based upon the acquisition policies of the Library of Congress then in force and the archival and examining requirements of the Copyright Office.

(3) Requests for special relief under this paragraph may be combined with requests for special relief under § 202.18(e) of these regulations. Whether so combined or made solely under this paragraph, such requests shall be made in writing to the Chief, Examining Division of the Copyright Office, shall be signed by or on behalf of the person signing the application for registration, and shall set forth specific reasons why the request should be granted.

(4) The Register of Copyrights may, after consultation with other appropriate officials of the Library of Congress, terminate any ongoing or continuous grant of special relief. Notice of termination shall be given in writing and shall be sent to the individual person or
organization to whom the grant of special relief had been given, at the last address shown in the records of the Copyright Office. A notice of termination may be given at any time, but it shall state a specific date of termination that is at least 30 days later than the date the notice is mailed. Termination shall not affect the validity of any deposit or registration made earlier under the grant of special relief.

(e) Use of copies and phonorecords deposited for the Library of Congress. Copies and phonorecords deposited for the Library of Congress under section 407 of title 17 and the deposit provisions of this section if they are accompanied by an application for registration of claim to copyright in the work and either a registration fee or a deposit account number on the application.

§ 202.21 Deposit of Identifying material instead of copies.

(a) General. Subject to the specific provisions of paragraphs (f) and (g) of this section, and to §§ 202.19(f)(1)(iv) and 202.20(d)(1)(iv), in any case where the deposit of identifying material is permitted or required under § 202.19 or § 202.20 of these regulations may be used to satisfy the deposit provisions of this section if they are accompanied by an application for registration of claim to copyright in the work and either a registration fee or a deposit account number on the application.

(b) Completeness; number of sets. As many pieces of identifying material as are necessary to show the entire copyrightable content of the work, including the copyright notice, if any, shall be submitted. Except in cases falling under the provisions of § 202.19(d)(2)(iii) or § 202.20(c)(2)(iii) with respect to holograms, only one set of such complete identifying material is required.

(c) Size. Photographic transparencies must be at least 35mm in size and, if such transparencies are 3x3 inches or less, must be fixed in cardboard, plastic, or similar mounts to facilitate identification, handling, and storage. The Copyright Office prefers that transparencies larger than 3x3 inches be mounted in a way that facilitates their handling and preservation, and reserves the right to require such mounting in particular cases. All types of identifying material other than photographic transparencies must be not less than 3x3 inches and not more than 9x12 inches, but preferably 8x10 inches. Except in the case of transparencies, the image of the work must be either lifesize or larger, or if less than lifesize must be large enough to show clearly the entire copyrightable content of the work.

(d) Title and dimensions. At least one piece of identifying material must, on its front, back, or mount, indicate the title of the work; and the indication of an exact measurement of one or more dimensions of the work is preferred.

(e) Copyright notice. In the case of works published with notice of copyright, the notice and its position on the work must be clearly shown on at least one piece of identifying material. Where necessary because of the size or position of the notice, a separate drawing or similar reproduction shall be submitted. Such reproduction shall be no smaller than 3x3 inches and no larger than 9x12 inches, and shall show the exact appearance and content of the notice, and its specific position on the work.

(f) For separate registration of an unpublished work that is fixed, or a published work that is published, only as embodied in a soundtrack that is an integral part of a motion picture, identifying material deposited in lieu of an actual copy of the motion picture shall consist of:

(ii) A transcription of the entire work, or a reproduction of the entire work on a phonorecord; and

(2) Photographs or other reproductions from the motion picture showing the title credits, and the copyright notice for the soundtrack, if any.

The provisions of paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section do not apply to identifying material deposited under this paragraph (g).

(g) (1) In the case of unpublished motion pictures (including transmission programs that have been fixed and transmitted to the public, but have not been published), identifying material deposited in lieu of an actual copy shall consist of:

(i) An audio cassette or other phonorecord reproducing the entire soundtrack or other sound portion of the motion picture, and description of the motion picture; or

(ii) A set consisting of one frame enlargement or similar visual reproduction from each 10-minute segment of the motion picture, and a description of the motion picture.

(2) In either case the “description” may be a continuity, a pressbook, or a synopsis but in all cases it must include:

(i) The title or continuing title of the work, and the episode title, if any;

(ii) The nature and general content of the program;

(iii) The date when the work was first fixed and whether or not fixation was simultaneous with first transmission;

(iv) The date of first transmission, if any;

(v) The running time; and

(vi) The credits appearing on the work, if any.

(h) In the case where the deposit copy or copies of a motion picture cannot be viewed for examining purposes on equipment in the Examining Division of the Copyright Office, the “description” required by § 202.20(c)(2)(ii) of these regulations may be a continuity, a pressbook, a synopsis, or a final shooting script but in all cases must be sufficient to indicate the copyrightable material in the work and include:

(1) The continuing title of the work and the episode title, if any;

(2) The nature and general content of the program and of its dialogue or narration, if any;

(3) The running time; and

(4) All credits appearing on the work including the copyright notice, if any.


Ralph Oman.
Register of Copyrights.
Approved:
Daniel J. Boorstin.
The Librarian of Congress.

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