ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE NEWSNET April - August 2026

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1. U.S. Copyright Office Proposes an Amendment to the Group Registration Option for Updates to News Websites[3]

The U.S. Copyright Office proposed an amendment to the group registration option for frequently updated news websites on May 28, 2026. The proposed amendment would clarify the definition of a "news website" under the Group Registration for Updates to a News Website (GRNW) final rule, which was published in July 2024. The rule allows news publishers to register a group of website updates as a collective work using identifying material representing sufficient portions of the included works, rather than depositing the website's complete contents. The proposed definition clarifies that a news website must (1) report on a variety of subjects, (2) have as its primary function reporting on current events, and (3) be updated frequently. The Office stated that the amendment is intended to improve administration of the regulation, facilitate efficient examination, and ease the registration process for copyright owners. Written comments were due by June 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

2. U.S. Copyright Office Issues Final Rule Redesignating Mechanical Licensing Collective and Digital Licensee Coordinator Under the Music Modernization Act[4]

The U.S. Copyright Office issued a final rule on June 3, 2026, continuing the existing designations of the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) and Digital Licensee Coordinator (DLC) under the Music Modernization Act (MMA). The MMA requires the Register of Copyrights to designate an MLC to administer the blanket statutory mechanical license for the reproduction and distribution of nondramatic musical works and a DLC to represent digital music providers in administering the license and

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[3] U.S. Copyright Office, "U.S. Copyright Office Proposes an Amendment to the Group Registration Option for Updates to News Websites" NETNEWS, Issue No. 1086, May 28, 2026, available at https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1086.html.
[4] U.S. Copyright Office, "U.S. Copyright Office Issues Final Rule Redesignating Mechanical Licensing Collective and Digital Licensee Coordinator Under the Music Modernization Act," NETNEWS, Issue No. 1087, June 3, 2026 available at https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1087.html.

determining the MLC's administrative assessment fee. The Office originally designated the current entities in July 2019 and conducted a periodic review that included an extensive public inquiry and more than sixty stakeholder comments from across the music industry. Although commenters offered suggestions for improving the entities' services, the majority supported continuing the existing designations.

3. U.S. Copyright Office Announces Start of Tenth Triennial Rulemaking Proceeding Under Section 1201[5]

The U.S. Copyright Office has initiated the tenth triennial rulemaking proceeding under Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which allows the Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, to adopt temporary exemptions from the DMCA's prohibition on circumventing technological measures that control access to copyrighted works. The proceeding identifies classes of works where the anti-circumvention provision adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, users' ability to make noninfringing uses. Existing exemptions from the ninth triennial rulemaking may be renewed through a streamlined process and, if renewed, would remain in effect for an additional three-year period from October 2027 to October 2030. Interested parties may submit petitions proposing new exemptions or renewing existing exemptions by August 24, 2026, with written comments on renewal petitions due September 28, 2026.

4. U.S. Copyright Office Announces Copyright Essentials: Copyright 101 Webinar[6]

The U.S. Copyright Office announced an upcoming "Copyright Essentials: Copyright 101" webinar, scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. eastern time. The webinar is part of the Office's educational series designed to teach copyright basics and key concepts to creators in various disciplines. The session will cover the foundations of copyright law, the copyright registration process, Copyright Office programs supporting research, enforcement, and understanding copyright concepts such as fair use. It will also address common questions, educational resources, and registration options, including the Copyright Registration Toolkit, and explain how the Office's Public Information Office can assist the public. The webinar will be presented by Samantha Levin and Taylor Schumacher, Attorney-Advisors in the Office of Public Information and Education.

5. U.S. Copyright Office Submits Proposed Fee Schedule and Analysis to Congress[7]

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[5] U.S. Copyright Off., *U.S. Copyright Office Announces Start of Tenth Triennial Rulemaking Proceeding Under Section 1201*, NewsNet Issue No. 1088 (June 9, 2026), https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1088.html.

[6] U.S. Copyright Off., *U.S. Copyright Office Announces Copyright Essentials: Copyright 101 Webinar*, NewsNet Issue No. 1089 (June 23, 2026), https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1089.html.

[7] U.S. Copyright Off., *U.S. Copyright Office Submits Proposed Fee Schedule and Analysis to Congress*, NewsNet Issue No. 1090 (July 14, 2026), https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1090.html.

The U.S. Copyright Office has submitted to Congress a proposed new fee schedule for Copyright Office services, along with a supporting analysis, marking the first change to its fees since 2020. The proposed schedule would allow the Office to recover a portion of its costs closer to the historical percentage of its operational budget while incorporating a reasonable inflation adjustment. The proposal follows the Office's comprehensive cost study and public comment period and reflects modifications based on stakeholder concerns. Under copyright law, the Register of Copyrights may institute the new fees 120 days after submitting the proposed schedule to Congress unless Congress enacts a law during that period stating that it does not approve the schedule. The Office seeks to implement the new fees in fall 2026.

6. U.S. Copyright Office Issues Final Rule Amending the Group Registration Option for Updates to News Websites[8]

The U.S. Copyright Office issued a final rule amending the Group Registration of Updates to a News Website (GRNW) option, which was created in July 2024 for frequently updated news websites. The amendment, effective immediately, clarifies which works qualify for the registration option. The updated definition provides that a news website is "a website that is primarily designed to be a source of written information on current events, either local, national, or international in scope." The rule further clarifies that (1) a news website need only report on a variety of subjects, (2) its primary function must be reporting on current events, and (3) its news content must be updated frequently. The Office stated that the amendment improves the administrability of the GRNW registration option and eases the registration process for rightsholders.

[8] U.S. Copyright Off., *U.S. Copyright Office Issues Final Rule Amending the Group Registration of Updates to a News Website*, NewsNet Issue No. 1091 (Aug. 13, 2026), https://www.copyright.gov/newsnet/2026/1091.html.