

Opening access to mid-20th century serials: Sparks grant preliminary proposal

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries seeks a \$25,000 1-year IMLS Sparks grant to demonstrate and provide tools and data for opening access to the large body of scholarly and general serial literature from 1923-1963 that is in the public domain, but not yet freely accessible online.

AGENCY RELEVANCE, FIELDWIDE NEED, POTENTIAL IMPACT

HathiTrust's IMLS-funded Copyright Review Management System has opened access to hundreds of thousands of monograph volumes, through a process that takes advantage of easy access to book copyright renewal data. However, to date it has not attempted to open access to most post-1922 serials, due to more complex clearance requirements and the lack of easily searchable data on periodicals renewals. Much of our country's history and cultural heritage, however, is present in serials such as newspapers, magazines, trade publications, and scholarly journals. By making data available about serials renewals, and specifying and demonstrating a process for clearing copyrights for many serials, we will provide means to greatly increase public access to the mid-20th century research and cultural heritage resources held by America's libraries and museums.

DIRECTOR AND PARTNERS

John Mark Ockerbloom, Digital Library Planner at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries and founder and editor of The Online Books Page, will direct the project. Joe Zucca, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Library Technology Services at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, will coordinate needed IT infrastructure and staffing. Metadata librarians and interns (such as Alison Miner, who has worked with John on early stages of the survey) will compile information on copyright-renewed periodical contributions from the Catalog of Copyright Entries. Bibliographers led by Dick Griscom, Director of Collections and Liaison Services, will select and coordinate digitization of sample serial volumes. We will also work with our University Counsel, and with copyright experts at HathiTrust and other organizations with experience in copyright and digitization.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN

In the project's 1-year period, we will complete and publish our survey of first contribution copyright renewals for serials made between 1950 and 1977. Two librarians will separately survey the Catalog of Copyright Entries to find all periodicals with contribution renewals recorded from the mid-1960s to 1977. Their work will be compared for consistency and normalized with known bibliographic sources to produce an inventory of all periodicals with issue and contribution renewals and the date for the first renewal of each type. Issue copyright renewals for this time period have already been surveyed, as have contribution renewals up to the mid 1960s. (The partial inventory can be found online at <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html>.) This data, along with

the renewals from 1978 and later already searchable online at the Copyright Office, can be used to greatly simplify the copyright clearance process for many US serials.

We will continue conversations begun with Melissa Levine, Kristina Eden, and Justin Bonfiglio of HathiTrust's CRMS projects to extend the basic procedures to serials that they have successfully employed with monographs. (To keep the clearance process comparably simple to their book clearance processes, we will focus on US-published serials that publish original, non-syndicated content. Many scholarly journals and other periodicals of current research interest fall into this category.) Our collections bibliographers will produce a trial set of post-1922 serial content to copyright-clear and scan. We will select and scan runs of qualifying titles and make them available online from public access repositories such as the Internet Archive or the Penn Libraries OPENN site (openn.library.upenn.edu/). We will produce a report describing our procedures, experiences, and copyright-clearance details.

PROJECTED PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OUTCOMES

By the end of the grant period, we plan to provide:

- Tested procedures for libraries wishing to identify and digitize public domain journal content from the mid-20th century.
- An open data source of all serials associated with issue and contribution copyright renewals made between 1950 and 1977. In conjunction with the Copyright Office's online database, this will allow easy lookup of renewal information for any serial with a copyright renewal for an issue or a specifically linked contribution published between 1923 and 1963.
- Openly accessible scans of selected post-1922 public domain serial runs that are relevant to current scholarship, with information on how we cleared them.

BUDGET

We expect to complete this project with a \$25,000 Sparks grant and in-kind labor and infrastructure contributions. Based on the periodicals review we have made up to the 1960s, we estimate that about \$7,000 in intern and professional staff time (wages plus benefits) would allow us to complete a basic periodicals contributions data inventory through 1977. An additional \$5,000 will support professional staff time to develop a copyright clearance procedure for serials, as well as structured enhancements to the basic inventory that could make it easier to search and process by machine. We expect that \$10,000 will fund the in-house copyright review and in-house or outsourced digitization of somewhere between 50 and 200 sample serial volumes. \$3,000 in travel funds will enable us to consult with copyright experts from other institutions and present the results of our work at conferences and library meetings, important for ensuring the success and uptake of our copyright clearance procedures for serials. Any additional staff time for bibliographic selection, drafting, consultation, report writing, and other development, as well as infrastructure costs for ingesting and hosting the digitized serials, would be in-kind costs paid by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.