

LicensingConnection

A newsletter from the U.S. Copyright Office Licensing Division

Spring 2013, Vol. 2



From the Editor:

Happy birthday, Licensing! On January 1, 2013, the Licensing Division quietly ushered in its 35th year of public service. The Licensing Division started operations in fall 1977 in preparation for the January 1, 1978, implementation date for statutory licenses. The division supports the Copyright Office's mission to promote creativity by managing the copyright law's statutory licenses that ensure compensation for creators. The licenses permit use of copyrighted content under certain conditions or if royalties are paid.

***Of Note:** In 1978, the division administered four licenses; in 2013 it handles eight. ©*

Reengineering Update

Licensing System Receives New Name

The Licensing Division held a naming contest for the new records management system. After receiving 72 entries from the Copyright Office staff, ELi (Electronic Licensing System), submitted by Stephen Ruwe (Office of the General Counsel), was chosen as the winner.

About ELi: ELi is the Electronic Licensing System developed as a result of the division's business process reengineering plan.

ELi will:

- allow all the licensing community (cable, satellite, and DART operators) the option to file statements of account and to submit corresponding payments electronically
- allow members of our licensing community the option of filing notices and submitting subsequent payments electronically
- allow bulk submission of statements and other records (Some of the larger operators file hundreds of statements each accounting period, and some agents file thousands of song titles at a time!)
- allow members of the licensing community and the general public better access to our public records through online searching
- allow corrections (amendments) to statements and notices

- allow Licensing Division staff to match statements and fees accurately, examine and close documents more efficiently and effectively, and review notices for completeness

The Licensing Division has made significant progress toward building an infrastructure that will allow ELi to be hosted in a cloud environment. Amazon will be hosting the system using its Amazon Web Services (AWS). Infrastructure/hosting technical requirements and configuration details are being incorporated into the system's software design using the Software AG WebMethods application. Aquilent and Vcentra are contractors also involved with cloud-focused project management, system administration, and architecture. In addition, other facets of planning for implementation are being reviewed, such as IT security and the backup of data within the cloud. A Proof of Concept (POC) environment is being set up in the Amazon Cloud in 2013 as the division transitions into the first phase of launching ELi in 2014.

Proposed ELi Schedule

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. eastern time

Closed Weekends

***Exception:** The two weeks prior to the March 1 and August 29 deadlines when Saturday and Sunday hours will be 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. eastern time

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Employee Spotlight: Donna Thacker, Licensing Examiner

How long have you worked with the Licensing Division?

28 years

What do you like best about working for the division?



Donna Thacker, Licensing Examiner, discusses her 28 years in the Licensing Division.

I like the challenge of examining the statements of account for cable and familiarizing the cable operators with the old FCC must-carry rules.

What is the hardest part about learning to examine a statement of account?

Once you think you've got all the rules down, someone throws in a zinger that causes you to really think.

What are you looking forward to with the new system?

If the system alerts cable operators to fee errors and call-sign errors, that would be a great help.

What is the one thing you hope to see the system do?

I'm hoping it will make the research part of my job faster. Looking through atlases, reference books, and back filings takes time. If everything is automated, my job would go a lot faster.

What do you like about training others to examine?

To really do it right, training is a long process, but, hopefully, the hands-on demo will teach others the basics of what we do so they can assist with the phone calls.

Moving on Up

Tim Howe will serve as the new technical specialist in the Examining Section. Tim has many years of experience as an

examiner, but that's not all he brings to this assignment. Tim brings a great deal of legal training and keen analytical thinking that will be invaluable to the section and the division. He has already begun to work closely with the program manager and Software AG team on our new electronic licensing system and will be even more involved with this process. Congratulations, Tim!

Got Conferences, Meetings, or Conventions?

Licensing Division staff may be available to attend, exhibit, or participate in upcoming activities. Email us at licensing@loc.gov to let us know of your plans.

Here are examples of events U.S. Copyright Office and Licensing Division staff have attended:

- **March 12-14: 2013** American Cable Association 20th Anniversary Summit, Washington, D.C.
 - **March 19-21: 2013** Satellite Conference, Washington, D.C.
- And next up:
- **June 10-12: 2013** National Cable Television Show, Washington, D.C.
 - **July 28-31: 2013** Independent Cable Show, San Diego (tentatively scheduled)

Looking Ahead

We heard you loud and clear...

The recent pilot launch and teleconference call provided feedback on our records management system (now named ELi). A large part of the next phase of our reengineering project will focus on batch submissions. We will be reaching out to you, our stakeholders, to help us test our new batch filing application before the end of March.

More TLC?

For prior issues of TLC, contact us on the web at www.copyright.gov/licensing.

For future issues of TLC, contact us at licensing@loc.gov. 