

Copyright Registration of Automated Databases

Definitions:

A [database](#) is a compilation of digital information comprising data, information, abstracts, images, maps, etc. In all cases, the content of a database must be arranged in a systematic manner, and it must be accessed solely by means of an integrated information retrieval program.

A **query** is a request for data or information from a database. A [query function](#) must be the sole method of accessing the content of the database and the results must yield a subset of the database content, or organize the content based on the parameters of the query.

A [website](#) is a webpage or set of interconnected webpages that is available online. Users can browse through content by scrolling, using hyperlink texts, or using a search feature. A website is not considered a database for copyright registration purposes because a query function is not the sole method of accessing website information.

A [data record](#) contains all the information related to a particular unit of information within a database.

A [data file](#) is a group of data records relating to a common subject matter.

A [single-file database](#) comprises one data file that contains a group of data records.

A [multi-file database](#) comprises separate and distinct data files covering multiple subjects.

Registration Options and Deposit Requirements:

1. A brand new database, never previously published or registered.

This registration can be submitted on an [electronic Standard Application](#) for a \$65 [fee](#).

The deposit requirements depend on whether the database is single-file or multi-file.

[Single-File:](#)

- The first twenty-five and last twenty-five pages of the database
- A statement confirming that the database is a single-file database
 - This can be in a cover letter or a Note to CO.

[Multi-File:](#)

- For each data file, fifty [complete](#) data records from the data file or the entire data file, whichever is less
- A Descriptive Statement containing the required information found in [Compendium III, Chapter 1100, § 1112.7\(C\)](#)
 - The descriptive statement should be uploaded with the deposit material as a separate file.

2. A specific version of a revised database.

This registration can be submitted on an [electronic Standard Application](#) for a \$65 [fee](#).

This option is best for an applicant who updates the database on an infrequent basis, for example, monthly or quarterly. This registration will cover all of the copyrightable changes published on a particular day.

The deposit requirements also depend on whether the database is single-file or multi-file.

Single-File:

- Fifty representative pages of complete data records or fifty complete data records that were added to or modified in that version; i.e. primarily new content
- A statement confirming that the database is a single-file database
 - This can be in a cover letter or a Note to CO.

Multi-File:

- Fifty representative pages of complete data records or fifty complete data records that were added to or modified in that version; i.e. primarily new content.
- A Descriptive Statement containing the required information found in [Compendium III, Chapter 1100, § 1112.7\(C\)](#)
 - The descriptive statement should be uploaded with the deposit material as a separate file.

3. The Group Registration Option (GRDB)

The group registration must be submitted on a [paper Form TX application](#) with a physical deposit. The [fee](#) is \$500. This group option allows the applicant to register up to three months of updates with a single application. The three months must be in the same calendar year. Examples: January 1 to March 31; September 1 – November 30

The applicant must also identify a single “[representative date](#)” from the three-month period. The deposit material must include new/revised content published (or completed, if unpublished) on that date and must be marked to show the copyrightable updates or revisions that were published (or completed, if unpublished) on the representative date.

In Space 1 of the application, the applicant is required to identify the title of the work, the three-month period, and other identifying information about the database in the following manner, as outlined in [Compendium III, Chapter 1100, § 1112.8\(A\)](#):

Group registration for database titled _____; [Published / Unpublished] updates [and revisions] from mm/dd/yyyy to mm/dd/yyyy; Representative [Publication / Creation] Date: mm/dd/yyyy; Updated [frequency (daily, weekly, monthly, etc)].

The group database applicant has two options for deposit material:

Option 1:

- Fifty pages of complete records or fifty complete data records of revised content that appeared in the database for the first time on the representative publication or creation date. The pages must be clearly marked to show the copyrightable updates or revisions that were created on that date.
- A Descriptive Statement containing the required information found in [Compendium III, Chapter 1100, § 1112.7\(C\)](#)

Option 2:

- Fifty pages of complete records or fifty complete data records of entirely new content that appeared for the first time on the representative date.
 - In this case the applicant must submit a cover letter confirming that all the submitted content was new as of the representative date given in space 1 on the application.
- A Descriptive Statement containing the required information found in [Compendium III, Chapter 1100, § 1112.7\(C\)](#)