



# Group Registration of Updates to a News Website (GRNW)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Registering a Group of Updates to a News Website on One Application

#### ► **What is a group registration of updates to a news website?**

The Copyright Office has created a new online group registration option for updates to a news website. This option is known as GRNW. It may be used to register two or more updates to a news website published within the same calendar month, provided that all eligibility requirements are met.

#### ► **What is a news website?**

A news website is a website that is designed to be a primary source of written information on current events, either local, national, or international in scope, that contains a broad range of news on all subjects and activities and is not limited to any specific subject matter.

A website is a web page or set of interconnected web pages that are accessed using a uniform resource locator (URL) organized under a particular domain name. Any web page associated with the same primary domain name/URL is considered to be part of one website.

For example, any web page that includes the primary domain name/URL “copyright.gov” would be considered part of the Office’s website. By contrast, any web page that includes the primary domain name/URL “loc.gov” would be considered a different website, even though copyright.gov and loc.gov are linked to each other, stored on the same servers, and originate from the same agency.

#### ► **When will the GRNW option be available?**

The GRNW option will be available on July 22, 2024.

#### ► **When was the GRNW option announced?**

The Copyright Office proposed the new GRNW option on January 3, 2024, by publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Federal Register* (89 FR 311). It was implemented in a **final rule** published on July 22, 2024.

#### ► **How do I register two or more updates to a news website with one application?**

You may register two or more updates to a news website that were made in the same calendar month by (1) completing the online application for “News Websites,” (2) paying the nonrefundable filing fee, and (3) uploading identifying material for each eligible update.

The identifying material should contain a complete copy of the home page for the website showing how the home page appeared at a specific point on each day that an eligible update was made to the website. If a complete copy of the home page is technically unfeasible due to the size or continuous nature of the home page, for each day of updates, you may submit one PDF showing the first twenty-five pages of the home page that demonstrates updates from the previous deposit copy. Each update must be submitted in a separate PDF file, and the files must be uploaded to the electronic registration system. Physical deposits will not be accepted.

The Office may refuse registration if the deposit or eligibility requirements are not met.

#### ► **In the past, I registered an update to my news website using the Standard Application. Can I still do this?**

Yes. The Standard Application is available for any type of work. You may continue to register one website update with the Standard Application; however, the Standard Application cannot be used to register multiple updates to a website.

► **Where can I learn about this group registration option?**

These FAQs provide introductory information about the group registration of updates to a news website. For more information, you can call the Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free) or send us an email using [this webform](#).

## Eligibility Requirements

► **What are the eligibility requirements for GRNW?**

- Each update must be made to a news website, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 202.4(m).
- The group must include at least two updates published on the same news website.
- Each update must be a collective work that has not been published before, and the claim in each update must be limited to the collective work.
- Each update must be a work made for hire.
- The author and claimant for each update must be the same person or organization.
- All of the updates must be published within the same calendar month (for example, March 1–March 31), and the applicant must identify the earliest and latest dates on which the updates were published during that month.

► **How many updates can I register?**

To use this group registration option, you must submit at least two updates made in the same calendar month. This registration option may be used to register all eligible updates made in that month. However, if you update the news website more than once per day, you need only submit identifying material for one update published on that day.

► **Can I register updates to more than one news website on a GRNW application?**

No. You may not register updates to more than one news website using this option, even if the websites are created and owned by the same entity.

The GRNW may only be used to register a group of updates to a particular news website. To qualify, the updates must be published to the same news website under the same primary domain name/URL.

► **Can I register more than one month's worth of updates or updates from two different months?**

No. All of the updates must fall within the same calendar month.

For example, updates made from June 1 through June 30 may be registered on one GRNW, but updates made from June 15 through July 14 may not.

► **Can I register published and unpublished updates on the same GRNW application?**

No. Unpublished works cannot be registered using this option.

To qualify for registration on a GRNW application, each update must have been published online. Works that are first published on a publicly accessible website, including news websites protected by paywalls, are eligible for this option.

For more information concerning online publication, see the *Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition*, [chapter 1000](#), section 1008.3.

► **What material can be registered using the GRNW option?**

A registration made using the GRNW option covers the collective work authorship in the update. It may also include the authorship in the individual contributions contained within the collective work if the contributions (1) are fully owned by the copyright claimant and (2) were first published in that update. A collective work “is a work, such as a periodical issue, anthology, or encyclopedia, in which a number of contributions, constituting separate and independent works in themselves, are assembled into a collective whole” (see section 101 of Title 17 of the *United States Code*).

Collective works are a subset of a category of works called compilations. A compilation “is a work formed by the collection and assembling of preexisting materials or of data that are selected, coordinated, or arranged in such a way that the resulting work as a whole constitutes an original work of authorship” (see section 101 of Title 17).

As a type of compilation, each collective work must contain a sufficiently creative selection, coordination, or arrangement of the individual component works, such as articles, photographs, illustrations, or other content. Whether the content itself is entirely new is irrelevant to this determination. An update to a news website could be considered an original collective work if it contains a new selection, coordination, or arrangement of content, even if that individual content has been previously published on the website—such as articles appearing in previous updates.

Any component works that were previously published or that are not fully owned by the GRNW author/claimant would need to be registered separately on the Standard Application. A contribution to a collective work is “fully owned” by the copyright claimant if that party owns all of the exclusive rights in that contribution that are set forth in section 106 of the Copyright Act.

**Note:** The Copyright Office will only examine the updates for new collective work authorship. The Office will not examine any of the individual contributions for copyrightable authorship, nor will the Office determine if any of them are owned by the copyright claimant.

#### ► ***Can I register works made for hire?***

A group of updates to a news website may only be registered as works made for hire. The GRNW application automatically adds a statement indicating that the updates were created as “work made for hire” and does not allow this statement to be changed or removed.

A work made for hire is either (1) a work created by an employee within the scope of his or her employment; or (2) certain types of works, such as a compilation or a contribution to a collective work, that are specially ordered or commissioned subject to a signed, written agreement. For more information on works made for hire, see [Circular 30](#).

If the updates were not made for hire, they do not qualify for the GRNW application.

#### ► ***Who should be named as the author and copyright claimant?***

The work made for hire author must be named as the author and claimant of every update. Even if the author transferred ownership of the updates to another party, the work made for hire author must be named as the author and claimant; this application cannot be used to show a transfer of ownership.

#### ► ***What if I want to include title or other information for component works included in each update?***

A registration under this group option will cover the individual contributions contained within the collective work if they are fully owned by the copyright claimant and were first published on the news website. If an applicant would like to include titles or other information about component works in the registration record, you may upload a cover letter or other document containing this information. The Copyright Office will not review this information or add it to the application, certificate of registration, or public record for your claim. However, the document will be maintained as part of the Office’s internal registration record.

**Note:** Any contributions that are not fully owned by the copyright claimant or contributions that were previously published before they appeared on the news website are not covered by the registration, even if they are identified in a document that has been uploaded by the applicant.

## **Application Form**

#### ► ***Do I need to submit my claim through the electronic registration system?***

Yes. You must submit your claim through the Copyright Office’s **eCO system**. You cannot use a paper application to register two or more updates to a news website.

#### ► ***Where do I find the online application for GRNW?***

To access the online application, log in to your **eCO account**.

Choose “Register Certain Groups of Published Works” under the heading “Other Registration Options” on the left side of the home screen. Read the on-screen text. It will walk you through the steps of determining whether your works meet the basic qualifications for group registration.

If, after reviewing the on-screen text, you are satisfied that your works do qualify for group registration, click “Start Registration” at the top of the screen.

Select "News Websites" from the Type of Group drop-down menu and read the new text that appears on screen. This text details the eligibility criteria for the GRNW application. After reading the text, if you are satisfied that the updates meet all eligibility requirements for registration as a group of updates to a news website, check the box next to the bolded text reading, "I agree that I have read, understood, and I meet all eligibility requirements described above for filing the selected Group Registration." Click the Continue button to go to the first page of the GRNW application.

► **What if I need help completing the GRNW application?**

The **help text** for the online application provides detailed instructions on how to complete each section of the form.

## Submitting Identifying Material for Updates to a News Website

You must submit identifying material for each update electronically; physical deposit material will not be accepted.

To register a group of published updates to a news website, you must submit identifying material for each eligible update. The identifying material should show a complete copy of the home page for the website as it existed at some point on each day that an eligible update was made to the website. If a complete copy of the home page is technically unfeasible due to the size or continuous nature of the home page, for each day of updates, you may submit one PDF showing the first twenty-five pages of the home page as it appeared at a specific point during that day.

Each update must be submitted in a separate PDF file that does not exceed 500 MB. The PDF files must be viewable and free of any access restrictions, such as password protection.

Applicants are encouraged to name each PDF file using the Office's preferred file naming convention:

GRNW\_[name\_of\_news\_website]\_[publication date in YYYYMMDD format].pdf

For example, the file name for an update to the Grand Rapids Gazette website published on August 1, 2018, would be "GRNW\_Grand\_Rapids\_Gazette\_20180801.pdf."

**Important Note:** Do not include any punctuation or special characters in the file name (other than underscores).

The Copyright Office encourages applicants to check the files containing their deposits before submitting them to ensure that the files open properly, and the contents have not been corrupted. Submitting files that cannot be opened or that contain corrupted contents will delay a registration decision until the Office receives uncorrupt electronic copies that we are able to examine.

## Supplementary Registration

► **I registered a group of updates to a news website. I found an error in my certificate. I also want to add some additional information to the certificate. Can I do this?**

You may be able to correct or amplify certain information in a registration certificate by submitting an application for supplementary registration.

► **Where do I find the application for supplementary registration?**

You must submit an online application through the eCO system.

**Important Note:** Before submitting a supplementary registration application for a group registration of updates to a news website, you must contact the Public Information Office for further instruction. To reach the Public Information Office, call us at (202) 707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free) or send us an email using [this webform](#).

► **Where can I learn more about supplementary registration?**

You can read *Supplementary Registration (Circular 8)*, call the Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000 or 1-877-476-0778 (toll-free), or send us an email using [this webform](#).