



copyright alliance

Copyright Alliance Model Responses to The Librarian of Congress's Register of Copyrights Survey

1. What are the knowledge, skills, and abilities you believe are the most important for the Register of Copyrights?

The next Register of Copyrights **must**:

- have the experience and the skills to authentically articulate and evangelize the importance and value of copyright and creativity and the benefits of a strong copyright system and modernizing the Copyright Office;
- have a deep understanding of and appreciation for copyright law and the critical role of the Copyright Office;
- have experience representing the copyright interests of creators and copyright owners;
- understand the statutory responsibilities of and services provided by the Copyright Office; *and...*
- most importantly, have the clear support of the copyright community.

Other qualities in a Register that would be beneficial but not essential, include having:

- first-hand experience with the legislative process, including working with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees;
- either direct experience with enterprise level IT systems and databases or being capable of understanding the issues that arise in implementing and administering such systems;
- experience working with or on behalf of the Copyright Office, the House or Senate Judiciary Committees or the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on copyright policy matters; and
- management experience.

2. What should be the top three priorities for the Register of Copyrights?

Priority #1: Advocate for the importance and value of copyright and creativity and articulate and promote the benefits of a strong copyright system and a modern Copyright Office;

Priority #2: Modernize the Copyright Office by immediately implementing the Copyright Office's IT modernization plan, which includes making the registration and recordation process easier and more affordable.

Priority #3: Ensure that the Copyright Office and modernization efforts are financed by means other than registration and recordation fees.

3. Are there other factors that should be considered?

As a creator, I believe that the views of creators who make their living in whole or in part through copyrights (as well as those who represent the interests of those creators) should be given greater weight in this survey than those who are not. It is also important that both the views of the leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and of all living former Registers, be taken into account in the selection of the next Register.