

Conversations with copyright renewal data

**Discovering 20th century public domain serial literature
and linking renewal information
with other knowledge bases**

John Mark Ockerbloom (University of Pennsylvania Libraries)
CNI Fall Membership Meeting – Washington, DC– December 10, 2018
Work discussed supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Thank you. I'd like to talk about a project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services designed to help bring to light a vast amount of public domain serial literature from the 20th century. And I'd also like to show how the data we've compiled in the project can contribute to a much larger set of useful knowledge about our cultural .heritage

In this presentation

- **New guide for researching periodical copyrights**
 - And verifying public domain as late as 1989
 - Can help libraries, others digitize collections
- **Structured, linkable data on copyright renewals**
 - Linked with Wiki-, library, and crowdsourced data
- **Collaborations, current and potential**
 - In using, and usefully adding to, the data

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

I'll be talking about a guide the project has just released in draft form to help people determine whether serial publications– that is, things like journals, magazines, newspapers, and other periodicals– are under copyright or in the public domain. You can use it to identify material in the public domain as late as 1989, so you can do things like digitize it.

I'll also talk about the data that supports this guide– specifically, a complete inventory of all periodicals published up to 1950 that have copyright renewals; and a set of structured machine-readable data that includes both that inventory and a growing knowledge base of machine-readable periodical information that's increasingly linked with other knowledge bases.

And finally I'll discuss some ways we'd like to work with others in taking advantage of this data and growing it.

Researching the 20th century

Alice Hamilton

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Alice Hamilton (February 27, 1869 – September 22, 1970) was an American physician, research scientist, and author who is best known as a leading expert in the field of [occupational health](#) and a pioneer in the field of [industrial toxicology](#). She was also the first woman appointed to the faculty of [Harvard University](#). Her scientific research focused on the study of occupational illnesses and the dangerous effects of industrial metals and chemical compounds. In addition to her scientific work, Hamilton was a social-welfare reformer, humanitarian, peace activist, and a resident-volunteer at [Hull House](#) in Chicago. She was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, most notably the [Lasker Award](#) for her public-service contributions.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Early life and family
- 2 Education
- 3 Career
 - 3.1 Early years at Chicago's Hull House
 - 3.2 Medical Investigator
 - 3.3 Women's rights and peace activist
 - 3.4 Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School
- 4 Later years



Born February 27, 1869
Manhattan, New York City,
New York

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Having this data online could help a lot in doing research on the 20th century. My wife was recently working on an article about Alice Hamilton, who was one of the people who established the field of industrial toxicology– basically, studying the effects of chemicals on people who worked or lived with them. She was one of the first people to sound the alarm about putting lead in gasoline. And she had a long career both as a scientist and as a social activist, working with groups like Hull House in Chicago.

What sources are available?

• Haber, Louis (1979). *Women Pioneers of Science*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN 9780152992020.

External links [edit]

- Hamilton, Alice, 1869-1970. Papers of Alice Hamilton, 1909-1987 (inclusive), 1909-1965 (bulk): A Finding Aid. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.
- Works by or about Alice Hamilton at Internet Archive
- Alice Hamilton in The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame
- Alice Hamilton at The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- Alice Hamilton, M.D. - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Exploring the Dangerous Trades Excerpt
- Alice Hamilton Profile at the Safety and Health Hall of Fame
- Alice Hamilton at the National Institutes of Health
- Short historical film showing Alice Hamilton in Berlin in 1915, on her peace mission with Jane Addams and Aletta Jacobs.
- Episode 2: Alice Hamilton from Babes of Science podcasts

Library resources about
Alice Hamilton
Resources in your library
Resources in other libraries

By Alice Hamilton
Online books
Resources in your library
Resources in other libraries

V•T•E	Inductees to the National Women's Hall of Fame	[show]
V•T•E	Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame	[show]
V•T•E	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	[show]
Authority control	WorldCat Identities · BNF: cb11996780k (data) · GND: 121666328 · ISNI: 0000 0001 1998 9363 · LCCN: n82062584 · NDL: 00901067 · SNAC: w63i9wm8 · SUDOC: 180460528 · VIAF: 32005966	

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

We have good access to research libraries where we are, but there are definitely some gaps in what's freely available online by or about Hamilton. You can find a fair bit of what she published in her early career, before 1923 when copyrights start going into effect. And there are some web sites about her that have been prepared fairly recently. But it's hard to find a lot of the things she published, or that were published about her, during the later part of her career. And there's a fair bit out there, a lot of it in periodicals, some of them scientific journals, and some of them magazines for the general public.

TECHNOLOGY

The Hole in Our Collective Memory: How Copyright Made Mid-Century Books Vanish

A book published during the presidency of Chester A. Arthur has a greater chance of being in print today than one published during the time of Reagan.

REBECCA J. ROSEN JUL 30, 2013

How Copyright Keeps Works Disappeared

Illinois Program in Law, Behavior and Social Science Paper No. LBSS14-07

Illinois Public Law Research Paper No. 13-54

55 Pages • Posted: 6 Jul 2013 • Last revised: 31 Mar 2014

[Paul J. Heald](#)

University of Illinois College of Law

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

This is a common problem if you're interested in the 20th century between the rise of commercial radio and the rise of the World Wide Web. Copyright, or often **uncertainty** about copyright, keeps many sources from the era offline and largely unavailable to people without easy access to major research libraries. Basically, if something was published after 1922, it might be under copyright, and all too often things that **might** be under copyright aren't online.

3 ways post-1922 works can be in US public domain

- **Work of the US government**
 - (& some works by other governments)
- **Pre-1989 US publication without © notice**
- **Pre-1964 US publication without © renewal**

12/11/18

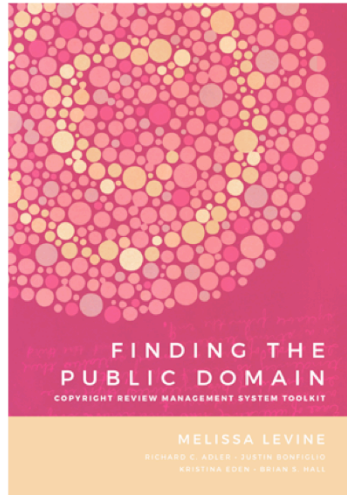
University of Pennsylvania Libraries

But there are a number of ways that works published after 1922 can be in the public domain now. They can be government works not subject to copyright, for instance, and HathiTrust and other groups now make a lot of that material freely available online, including some of the reports that Alice Hamilton wrote for the government.

They can be works published before 1989 without a copyright notice. And that actually covers a fair number of interesting sources that weren't published commercially, including newsletters, bulletins of many scholarly societies, and zines and many other publications from marginalized groups.

Finally, there are works published before 1964 whose copyright was not renewed. And it turns out there are a lot of these--

Finding unrenewed copyrights



- **HathiTrust opened >252,000 post-1922 books in public domain as of Nov 2018**
 - Mostly non-renewals
 - Step-by-step review process
- **Post-1922 serials are harder**
 - Renewals can be on either issues, or contributions, or both
 - Many serials have lots of contributions
- **So we've simplified the job**

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

...and here I have to give a lot of credit to HathiTrust and their Copyright Review Management System. As you saw in Melissa's presentation, they've opened up more than a quarter of a million books published after 1922 that they've identified as public domain, usually because they lack required renewals. And they've developed an efficient system for identifying these books at scale with a step by step set of questions and searches.

But they haven't opened up **serials** past 1922 like they have books. If you're opening up a book, you often just have to find out whether the book's copyright was renewed. But serials are harder. Each issue of a serial might have its own renewal. But each **contribution** to a serial— each story, each article, might also have its own renewal. That's potentially a lot more copyrights you have to check.

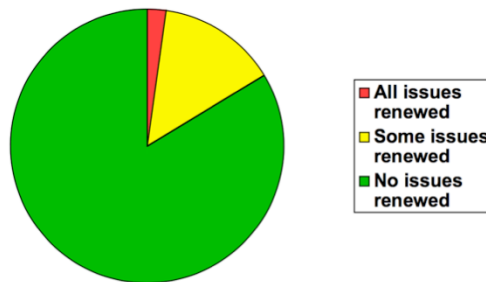
Fortunately, there are ways to avoid having to check every last article. What saves us...

...is the fact that relatively few periodicals had any renewals at all (issue or contribution)

Low renewal rates for most serials

Using JSTOR (as of March 2006) as representative sample of significant journals:

- 1923-1950 journals in JSTOR: 298
- Number that renewed any issues: 49
- Number renewing first issue in period: 7



12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

For instance, back in 2006 I looked at periodicals published between 1923 and 1950 in JSTOR, and found that only a small portion of those periodicals– that yellow slice on the upper right of this pie chart had issue renewals. And only the tiny sliver at the top of the pie renewed all their issues.

And it turns out the picture doesn't change much if you add in contribution renewals.

. . The number of periodicals that have either type of renewal is small enough that we can go through all the volumes that cover periodicals in the US Copyright Office's Catalog of Copyright Entries, and make an inventory of all the periodicals that had an issue of contribution renewal, and record the date of the first issue or contribution to be renewed.

Pre-1964 US publications without © renewal

- **Most US-published scholarly articles**
- **Most original US newspaper content (apart from syndicated features)**
 - Especially outside NYC & other major cities
- **Most US specialty and local interest serials**
- **Notable portions of many literary and popular magazines**

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

So that's what our project did. And we found out, after we'd done that, that not only is a lot of pre-1964 scholarship unrenewed, but also a lot of the stuff that's in pre-1964 newspapers. And an awful lot of the stuff that's in special-interest or local-interest serials. Even when we're looking at popular national magazines, where we see renewals in larger numbers, there are still significant portions that were not renewed.

Can we establish the copyright status of these articles (or their issues)?

Articles:

- "Hitler Speaks: His Book Reveals the Man," *Atlantic Monthly* (April 1933)^[48]
- "The Youth Who Are Hitler's Strength," *New York Times*, 1933^[55]
- "A Woman of Ninety Looks at Her World," *Atlantic Monthly* (1961)^[64]

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

So, how do we tell what's public domain and what isn't? Well, let's look at some of the articles that Alice Hamilton wrote in the popular press that are mentioned in her Wikipedia article: two from the Atlantic, one from the New York Times. All of them are from that pre-1964 era where works had to be renewed to stay under copyright. But were they renewed?

[https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/
cce/decisions.html](https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/decisions.html)

Determining copyright status of serial issues

This is a DRAFT of a document describing a step-by-step process of answering questions to determine whether one can consider US serial material (such as newspapers, magazines, journals, and similar publications) to be in the public domain or under copyright. It was last revised December 5, 2018. Comments on the draft are especially welcomed before December 25 (please send them to [ockerblo\(at\)upenn.edu](mailto:ockerblo(at)upenn.edu)). I hope to bring this document out of draft status (with changes appropriate to the date) on January 1, Public Domain Day 2019. Until then, please do not cite or redistribute it.

Please see the [credits, disclaimers, and license](#) at the end of this document before making use of it. You may find the document's [glossary of terms](#) helpful in understanding the process described here. Information on rights you may have for using serial material still under copyright can be found in [Appendix E](#).

Section 1: Country and publication

Question 1: Is the serial a US publication?

***How to tell:** Serial issues originally published in the US can be considered US publications. An issue's original place of publication will usually be noted in its masthead. If not, place of publication may be noted in the serial's catalog entry in [WorldCat](#) or another suitable library catalog. (See [note 1](#) for why US publication is important, and for information on other publications an adventurous and legally savvy organization might also consider as US publications.)*

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

We can step through the questions in the guide we've written to help us decide. This guide is now online in draft form at the address you see on this slide, which will also be available to you online shortly, so you don't have to scribble down the URL now.

Let's walk through it, using the April 1933 Atlantic article that Alice Hamilton wrote.

Sections 1-2: Scope

- **Is the periodical issue/article in scope?**
 - Must be a US serial publication
 - Non-US publications may be exempt from © “formalities”
 - Unpublished material has different © rules
 - Must be published after 1922
 - 1922 and earlier already in public domain
 - And, 22 days from now, 1923!
 - and before (March) 1989
 - Publications then on automatically get full © term

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

First of all, we have a couple of sections just to make sure what you’re interested in is in-scope for our guide. We only cover serials that were published in the United States. Non-US publications and things that might not have been published at all have some different copyright rules that can get kind of complicated.

And for US publications, our guide only covers things published after 1922, because before then it’ll be definitely public domain already. Just like starting next month, US publications from 1923 will all be public domain too. I’ve been looking forward to that for a **long time**.

We’ll also throw out anything published in 1989 or later, since unless it’s something uncopyrightable like a government publication, we can assume it’s under copyright.

Sections 3-7: Complications

- **Does the issue/article have complications?**
 - Could it have been renewed as a book?
 - Annuals, irregular dates, distinct titles, law serials
 - Do it have content needing special clearance?
 - Maps, drama, music (each have own renewals)
 - Reprints from other publications
 - Nationally syndicated features (e.g. comics)
 - Images?
 - Renewal rate very low (at least for pre-1950 publications)
 - Main concern: Those with their own © notices & credits

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Okay. In the next few sections, we ask some questions to see if we have to do any special copyright checks. Some serials, including law reviews, yearbooks and other annuals, or irregular monograph series, may have been copyright and renewed as books, so you have to clear them as books first just to be sure they're public domain.

Some other serials include things like maps, music, and play scripts that have their own sections of the Catalog of Copyright Entries that we have not systematically surveyed. You'll need to do your own research to clear copyrights on those types of works, and we don't provide guidance there. Fortunately, most serials don't publish this sort of material, and it's usually pretty easy to identify the ones that do.

Most serials do have images of some sort. There are some that may introduce complications, like syndicated comics, that got renewed a lot and that appear in a lot of newspapers. But other than that, the renewal rate for images on their own is so low in the time period we looked at that in practice you don't have to check them separately unless they have their own copyright notice or a credit that indicates that they came from some other publication.

Section 8: Simple date check

- **Does the issue/article pre-date the serial's 1st renewal?**
 - If published in 1950 or later, look it up on the Copyright Office's database
 - If published before or in 1950, look it up in our first renewals inventory
 - Serial not there? Then there was no renewal

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

OK, so now we get to the heart of our procedure. Look at the date of the issue, volume, or article you're interested in. Now do a quick lookup to see if that serial has any copyright renewals on or before that date.

If you're looking at something published in 1950 or later, you can do a quick search in the Copyright Office's public catalog that Melissa showed you in her presentation.

If you're looking at something published in 1950 or earlier, you can look up the serial's title in the renewals inventory we've produced. And if it's **not** in that inventory, then there **wasn't** a renewal for that serial.

Let's take a look at that inventory.

[https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/
cce/firstperiod.html](https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html)

First copyright renewals for periodicals

This is an inventory of periodicals and their first copyright renewals (if any). Most periodicals published in the US prior to 1964 had to renew their issue copyrights after 28 years in order to retain copyright on the issue. (Contributions included within the issue could also have their own copyrights, which can be independent of their issue's copyright.) For more information on copyright renewal requirements, see [this page](#). We also now have [the draft of a guide for using this data to determine the copyright status of periodical content](#).

The list below should include all of the more than 1000 periodicals with renewed issue or contribution copyrights (for 1923-1950 issues) between 1950 and 1977, as well as selected periodicals with renewals filed between 1978 and 1992, or that do not have copyright renewals. (After 1992, copyright renewal was automatic or no longer required.) This may be useful as a guide to people who are interested in digitizing certain periodicals, to point out serials for which further copyright research may be fruitful. A link on a serial title goes to more detailed, structured information on that serial's copyrights. Titles displayed in this list **with emphasis** have free online content available, linked from their detailed copyright information page.

[A](#) - [B](#) - [C](#) - [D](#) - [E](#) - [F](#) - [G](#) - [H](#) - [I](#) - [J](#) - [K](#) - [L](#) - [M](#) - [N](#) - [O](#) - [P](#) - [Q](#) - [R](#) - [S](#) - [T](#) - [U](#) - [V](#) - [W](#) - [X](#) - [Y](#) - [Z](#)

Some caveats to keep in mind:

- Many periodicals first published abroad, as well as those published after 1963, are exempt from renewal requirements, so can still be copyrighted despite the lack of a renewal.
- Contributions to periodicals could be registered separately. So even though a particular magazine issue

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

As I said before, we have a list of periodicals that includes every one that has a copyright renewal before 1950. The address is on the slide; again, you don't have to copy it down.

It's arranged alphabetically. So if we're wondering about an April 1933 Atlantic article, we Control-F or scroll down to "Atlantic"...

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html>

- Contributions renewed from February 1940 (v. 1 no. 1); see 1960 July-December
- *Astounding Science Fiction*: see *Astounding Stories*
- *Astounding Stories*: issues renewed from October 1933 (v. 12 no. 2); see 1960 July-December; contributions renewed from March 1934 (v. 13 no. 1); see 1962 January-June
- *Athlete*: issues renewed from August 1939 (v. 1 no. 1); see 1966
- *Atlanta Constitution*: no issue renewals found in CCE or registered works database; contributions renewed from February 9, 1940; see 1967 January-June
- *The Atlantic Monthly*: issues actively renewed from July 1934 (v. 154 no. 1); see 1962 January-June; contributions actively renewed from July 1923; see 1950 January-June
- *Atlantic Reporter*: issues prior to 1923 renewed; see 1950 Jan-Jun
- *Audubon Magazine*: issues renewed from September-October 1947 (v. 49 no. 5); see 1975; contributions renewed from July-August 1947; see 1974 July-December; preceded by *Bird-Lore*
- *Aufbau*: no issue renewals found in CCE or registered works database; contributions renewed from June 12, 1942 (v. 8 no. 24); see 1969 July-December
- *The Authors' League Bulletin*: issues renewed from June 1942 (v. 1 no. 3); see

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

...and we find there that the first issue of the Atlantic to be renewed is the March 1934 issue. So that's a good sign for our 1933 article.

However, we also see that the first **contribution** to the Atlantic with an active renewal is from 1923. That's not so good; it suggests that maybe what we're interested in **was** renewed.

Now, if I were trying to copyright-clear a bunch of items at once, like Hathi's CRMS does, I could stop here and move on to the next item. But if I'm **really** interested in this item, I can take some more time to check things out.

Sections 9 and 10: Optional checks

- **Is there a renewal for this specific issue or article?**
 - We have more detailed renewal info for some serials, but not others
 - You (or someone else) can “adopt” a serial of interest to you
 - If we don’t have details, we can point to where you can look them up
- **Does the item have a notice or registration?**
 - Some “gray” pre-1989 publications don’t

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

That’s what the next sections of our guide are for. They describe a few other checks you can make that zero in on the item you’re interested in.

Like: Was there a copyright notice on the publication? Well, there is for the Atlantic, and most other commercial publications, but there might not be for stuff that’s more outside the mainstream.

Or: Was there a renewal for the specific issue or article you’re interested in? Well, we point to some data sources like the online Catalog of Copyright Entries, that you can search to see if there’s a renewal for your issue or article, or that you can survey to compile all of the renewals for your serial over a particular time period.

We don’t have the time ourselves to survey all of the serials in our inventory like that. But we have surveyed a few of them, and we’re happy to take data from people who want to adopt other serials to survey.

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/firstperiod.html>

- Contributions renewed from February 1940 (v. 1 no. 1); see 1960 July-December
- *Astounding Science Fiction*: see *Astounding Stories*
- *Astounding Stories*: issues renewed from October 1933 (v. 12 no. 2); see 1960 July-December; contributions renewed from March 1934 (v. 13 no. 1); see 1962 January-June
- *Athlete*: issues renewed from August 1939 (v. 1 no. 1); see 1966
- *Atlanta Constitution*: no issue renewals found in CCE or registered works database; contributions renewed from February 9, 1940; see 1967 January-June
- *The Atlantic Monthly*: issues actively renewed from July 1934 (v. 154 no. 1); see 1962 January-June; contributions actively renewed from July 1923; see 1950 January-June
- *Atlantic Reporter*: issues prior to 1923 renewed; see 1950 Jan-Jun
- *Audubon Magazine*: issues renewed from September-October 1947 (v. 49 no. 5); see 1975; contributions renewed from July-August 1947; see 1974 July-December; preceded by *Bird-Lore*
- *Aufbau*: no issue renewals found in CCE or registered works database; contributions renewed from June 12, 1942 (v. 8 no. 24); see 1969 July-December
- *The Authors' League Bulletin*: issues renewed from June 1942 (v. 1 no. 3); see

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

This is where we get into the structured data part of this project. You may have noticed that there are web links on a lot of the titles in our inventory. Clicking on one of those links will take you to page with more information on that title.

[https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/
webbin/cinfo/atlantic](https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/cinfo/atlantic)

The Atlantic Monthly

Copyright information

Title: *The Atlantic Monthly*
Also known as: The Atlantic
Online content: [Free online material via The Online Books Page](#)
More information: [Wikipedia article](#); [Wikidata](#)
First issue: November 1857 (v. 1 no. 1)
First renewed issue: July 1934 (v. 154 no. 1); see [1962](#) January-June
First renewed contribution in: July 1923; see [1950](#) January-June

Renewed issues

This includes all active renewals through 1949. It might not show all renewals past that date.

- **July 1934** (v. 154 no. 1)
- **August 1934** (v. 154 no. 2)
- **June 1935** (v. 155 no. 6); CCE lists this issue under renewals for volume 154.
- **June 1937** (v. 159 no. 6)

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

If we click on the link for the Atlantic, for instance, we find out that we have a lot of information on it than just its first renewals. We also have a bunch of other information and links. Here we have links to online digital content, we have links to Wikipedia and Wikidata, and we have a list of **all** the issues that were renewed up through the 1940s. And if we scroll down...

[https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/
webbin/cinfo/atlantic](https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/cinfo/atlantic)

- **December 1932:** "The American Monkey Wrench", by George E. Sokolsky
- **February 1933:** "A Chance Meeting", by Willa Cather [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **February 1933:** "Skip: A Strong Icelandic Noun", by James Norman Hall
- **February 1933:** "The House of Exile", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **March 1933:** "The State of Being Bored", by James Norman Hall
- **March 1933:** "Three Birthdays", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "If One Voice, Not Another, Must Speak First (Preludes to Definition)", by Conrad Aiken [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "Three Marriages", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "Confessions of a Novelist", by Edith Wharton [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1933:** "Old Quarrel", by Morley Callaghan [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1933:** "Complaint", by Phyllis McGinley
- **August 1933:** "My Mixed Marriage", by George E. Sokolsky
- **October 1933:** "The Spirit of Place", by James Norman Hall
- **April 1934:** "Goodbye, Mr. Chips", by James Hilton [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1934:** "Genius", by Theodore Roethke [\[Permissions\]](#)

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

... we also find that someone has also added information on all **contribution** renewals made through the 1930s. And we see that some articles in the April 1933 issue were renewed, but not the one by Alice Hamilton. So we're good.

Okay, admission: That someone who added information was me in this case. But it doesn't have to be me.

It could be you.

Behind this page is a JSON file that I (or you, or someone else interested in the serial) creates....

Powering these pages: JSON files

```
{
  "title": "The Atlantic Monthly",
  "aka": ["The Atlantic"],
  "online": "1",
  "first-issue": {"issue-date": "1857-11", "volume": "1", "number": "1"},
  "first-renewed-issue":
    {"issue-date": "1934-07", "volume": "154", "number": "1"},
  "first-renewed-contribution":
    {"issue": {"issue-date": "1923-07"}},
  "renewed-contribution-completeness": "active/1943",
  "renewed-contributions": [
    {"issue": {"issue-date": "1923-07"},
      "title": "Deckers on the Coast",
      "author": {
        "authorized": "McFee, William, 1881-1966",
        "lcna": "n82053296"
      }
    },
    ...
  ],
  ...
}
```

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

...and that JSON file has a lot of structured information on that serial. Among other things, it includes structured, linkable information on each renewal, including dates in ISO format, name authority identifiers, and more. All of these JSON files are retrievable from our site, or downloadable in bulk from Github. And the structure enables a number of interesting applications.

For instance, you could take this set of JSON files, and a spreadsheet of serial holdings that has ISSNs and date ranges, and run a script that automatically identifies serials in those holdings that are likely to have public domain issues well past 1922.

[https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/ webbin/cinfo/atlantic](https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/cinfo/atlantic)

- **December 1932:** "The American Monkey Wrench", by George E. Sokolsky
- **February 1933:** "A Chance Meeting", by Willa Cather [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **February 1933:** "Skip: A Strong Icelandic Noun", by James Norman Hall
- **February 1933:** "The House of Exile", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **March 1933:** "The State of Being Bored", by James Norman Hall
- **March 1933:** "Three Birthdays", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "If One Voice, Not Another, Must Speak First (Preludes to Definition)", by Conrad Aiken [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "Three Marriages", by Nora Waln [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **April 1933:** "Confessions of a Novelist", by Edith Wharton [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1933:** "Old Quarrel", by Morley Callaghan [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1933:** "Complaint", by Phyllis McGinley
- **August 1933:** "My Mixed Marriage", by George E. Sokolsky
- **October 1933:** "The Spirit of Place", by James Norman Hall
- **April 1934:** "Goodbye, Mr. Chips", by James Hilton [\[Permissions\]](#)
- **May 1934:** "Genius", by Theodore Roethke [\[Permissions\]](#)

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Or you could take the name authority identifiers and use them to link to further information about a rightholder. As you can see here, one of the authors of an article that **was** renewed in that April 1933 Atlantic issue was Edith Wharton. There's a permissions links next to her name...

Links to rightsholder info

 **University of
Reading**

W A T C H
WRITERS ARTISTS AND THEIR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS

 **HRC**
HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

...and that goes to a page in a database at the University of Texas called Writers, Artists, and Their Copyright Holders (or WATCH), that tells you who to contact and where if you want to get permissions to use Edith Wharton's article.

Links to contents info...

[Galaxy Science Fiction](#) [v1 #1, October 1950] (25¢, 160pp, digest, cover by [David Stone](#))

- 2 · For Adults Only · [H. L. Gold](#) · ed
- 4 · Time Quarry [Part 1 of 3] · [Clifford D. Simak](#) · n.; revised as **Time and Again** (S 1951) and **First He Died** (Dell 1953).
- 61 · Third from the Sun · [Richard Matheson](#) · ss; illustrated by [Callé](#)
- 67 · Flying Saucers: Friend, Foe or Fantasy? · [Willy Ley](#) · ar; illustrated.
- 72 · The Stars Are the Styx · [Theodore Sturgeon](#) · nv; illustrated by [Callé](#)
- 107 · Forecast · [Anon.](#) · ms
- 108 · Later Than You Think · [Fritz Leiber](#) · ss; illustrated by [Vanpola](#)
- 114 · Contagion · [Katherine MacLean](#) · nv; illustrated by [Pierre](#)
- 141 · Galaxy's Five Star Shelf · [Groff Conklin](#) · rc
- 141-142 · **Shadow on the Hearth**, [Judith Merrill](#); Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1950
- 142-143 · **The Rat Race**, [Jay Franklin](#); Los Angeles: Fantasy Publishing Co., 1950

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

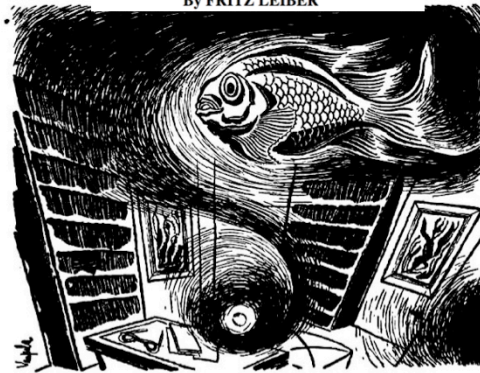
Other external sites we link to include ones that have tables of contents compiled by publishers or fans of a particular serial. We don't have one of these for the Atlantic, but there is one for Galaxy, an influential magazine that publishes science fiction stories. If we take the contents lists that fans of Galaxy have compiled, and subtract from them a list of copyright-renewed contributions to Galaxy that we've compiled, the result is a list of contributions to Galaxy that do **not** appear to have a renewal.

...help identify unrenewed stories

Later Than You Think

It's much later. The question is ... how late?

By FRITZ LEIBER



Obviously the Archeologist's study belonged to an era vastly distant from today. Familiar similarities here and there only sharpened the feeling of alienage. The sunlight that filtered through the windows in the ceiling had a wan and greenish cast and was augmented by radiation from some luminous material impregnating the walls and floor. Even the wide desk and the commodious hassocks glowed with a restful light. Across the former were scattered metal-backed wax tablets, styluses, and a pair of large and oddly formed spectacles. The crammed bookcases were not particularly unusual, but the books were bound in metal and the script on their spines would have been utterly unfamiliar to the most erudite of modern linguists. One of the books, lying open on a hassock, showed leaves of a thin, flexible, rustless metal covered with luminous characters. Between the bookcases

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

And you can use **that** list for stories to double-check and digitize, as people are now doing. Here's one of those stories from Galaxy that's now online at Project Gutenberg.

Two-way links with Wikidata

Property

DiscussionReadView historySearch Wikidata

Online Books Page publication ID (P5396)

identifier for a publication, at the Online Books Page website with copyright info

– In more languages Configure

Language	Label	Description
English	Online Books Page publication ID	identifier for a publication, at the Online Books Page website with copyright info
Spanish	identificador Online Books Page de publicación	No description defined
Traditional Chinese	No label defined	No description defined
Chinese	No label defined	No description defined

All entered languages

Data type

External identifier

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

There's one last kind of link I want to mention, and that's links both to and from Wikidata. Wikidata is building up a growing corpus of bibliographic information to support a wide variety of projects, including WikiCite, Wikisource, Wikiproject newspapers. A while back, Wikidata folks reached out to me and created a data property to link to copyright information that I have in my data set. And I returned the favor. As a result, I can do things like link out to Wikipedia articles, retrieve ISSN data, and get access to a lot of other data on a serial that I'd rather not have to manage myself. And they can get easy access to my knowledge base to do things like clear serial issues for digitization.

What we've done...

- 1. Complete inventory of ALL serials with issue OR contribution renewals to 1977, & their 1st renewals**
 - Search this inventory for issues up to 1950
 - Search Copyright Office database for 1950 and later
- 2. Step by step procedures to use this inventory**
 - Elaboration on the two basic steps above
 - Now available in draft; official release date January 1
- 3. Extensible, JSON-based data structures for copyright info**
 - Linked to Wikidata/pedia, tables of contents, rights DBs, more

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

So, to review, here's what we've done so far. We have a large set of increasingly structured data on serials and their copyrights that's now comprehensive enough that you can use it, along with other data, to make practical determinations of whether serial publications from a large part of the 20th century are under copyright, or in the public domain.

We've published a guide for using this data to make those determinations. It's currently in draft form, but we hope to make an official release as part of our celebration of Public Domain this coming January 1.

We've defined a set of data structures that others can also use to contribute further copyright information, and link it to a variety of related data sources elsewhere.

What's next, and what can you do?

- **We'll officially release decision guide January 1**
 - We'd love to get your feedback! (best if by Dec 25)
- **We'll try it out ourselves to clear copyrights**
 - And maybe you can too, on holdings you want to share
- **We'll augment and enhance our data sets**
 - Documentation on the JSON data structures we support
 - Then: More JSON+Wikidata links; 1924 updates for 2019
 - More data on serials of particular interest
 - Any you'd like to adopt, or have us research?
- **Spread the word, and adapt our materials**
 - The guide will be CC-BY on release; data is CC0
 - Intended to be usable for big collections and small

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

So what's next? Well, we're hoping to improve our draft guide with feedback from the community, so if you want to read it over and get comments to us by Christmas, we should be able to take them into account for a January 1 initial release.

We're planning on testing the guide ourselves at Penn to clear some serial copyrights. And if you'd like to try it out yourself on serials you're interested in, we'd love to hear from you how it went and what we might do to improve the guide.

We're going to keep growing our structured data set. Since we want other people to use and contribute to it, our first order of business is to publish documentation on the fields used in our JSON files, and what goes in them. We'll also continue to create JSON files and Wikidata links for the serials already in our inventory. And if there are particular serials you're interested in, let me know. We might be able to show you how to create copyright data files for them, or in a few cases where someone's asked about a serial we didn't list, we researched it ourselves and added a file for it with information on what, if anything, from it might be under copyright.

And finally, we'd love it if you spread the word about this work. Our guide will be CC-BY, and our data is CC-Zero, so we hope that it can be used and adapted by all sorts of libraries and cultural heritage projects.

Thanks and more

- ...to IMLS for a 1-year NDP Sparks grant funding this work
- ...to Penn Libraries for in-kind support, funding
- ...to Alison Miner and Carly Sewell for data compilation
- ...to Penn university counsel, Penn librarians, Jonathan Band, HathiTrust & Michigan library staff for advice and support
- ...to Wikidata/pedia, WATCH, tables of contents providers,
- ...and you!
- Find out more at: Everybodyslibraries.com
 - Onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce
- Find me at:
 - ockerblo@upenn.edu [@JMarkOckerbloom](https://twitter.com/JMarkOckerbloom)
 - github.com/JohnMarkOckerbloom
 - Data for this project in repo [onlinebooks \(/ data / cinfo \)](#)

12/11/18

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

I have a lot of people to thank for helping with this work. Big thanks to IMLS for funding it, to the Penn Libraries for supporting it, to our wonderful interns Alison Miner and Carly Sewell who did a lot of the data wrangling, to folks at places like HathiTrust and elsewhere supporting our grant proposal and looking over drafts of our guide.

Thanks also to all of the information communities I link to, especially the Wikidata community, which proactively reached out to me and is doing a lot of things to expand the open bibliographic knowledge base.

You can find out more at the URLs in red, and if you'd like to learn more or help out, I'd love to talk with you here, or via any of the contact methods up here in blue. Thank you very much, and with that I'll turn it over to Greg.