

## Chapter 10: Copyright Duration and Related Limitations on Transfer

Graphs from Textbook: COPYRIGHT: A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH, 2ND ED. (2018) by Robert Brauneis and Roger E. Schechter, pp. 740-744.

Note that these tables do not include duration information for works made for hire, anonymous works, pseudonymous works, and works published outside the United States.

### Works First Published Before 1964

Year Published	Example	Type of Work	Needed to Be Renewed	If Renewed, Renewal Term Expires	Reason	Explanations/Reasons
1900	<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	Literary	1928	1956	A	<b>A:</b> Initial term of 28 years, beginning on publication with notice. Failure to renew would have injected work into the public domain. If renewed, renewal term endured for an additional 28 years.
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 56]	A	
1905	<i>Claire de Lune</i> by Claude Debussy	Musical	1933	1961	A	
1906	<i>The Jungle</i> by Upton Sinclair	Literary	1934	1981	B	<b>B:</b> Initial term of 28 years, beginning on publication with notice. Failure to renew would have injected work into the public domain. If renewed, the 28-year renewal term would have expired between 1962 and 1977. However, the various interim copyright term extension bills passed during that 15-year period continually preserved copyright until the 1976 Act became effective in 1978. Under the 1976 act, the renewal term was extended to expire 75 years after the initial publication date.
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 75]	B	
1914	<i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> by Edgar Rice Burroughs	Literary	1942	1989	B	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 75]	B	
1922	<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> by Margery Williams	Literary	1950	1997	B	
1923	<i>The Prophet</i> by Kahlil Gibran	Literary	1951	2018	C	<b>C:</b> Initial term of 28 years, beginning on publication with notice. Failure to renew would have injected work into the public domain. If renewed, the 28-year renewal term would still have been in force in 1978 when the 1976 Act became effective, at which time copyright in such works was extended to run for 75 years after publication. However, all such works would have still been under copyright in 1998, when the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA) became effective. That legislation further extended the term of copyright so that the renewal term now will expire 95 years after the initial publication date.
1924	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i> by George Gershwin	Musical	1952	2019	C	
1925	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	Literary	1953	2020	C	
1926	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> by Ernest Hemingway	Literary	1954	2021	C	
1927	<i>The Jazz Singer</i> directed by Alan Crosland	Movie	1955	2022	C	
1928	<i>Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love</i> by Cole Porter	Musical	1956	2023	C	
1929	<i>Puttin' on the Ritz</i> by Irving Berlin	Musical	1957	2024	C	
1930	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett	Literary	1958	2025	C	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	C	
1940	<i>Pinnocchio</i> by Walt Disney Pictures	Movie	1968	2035	C	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	C	
1950	<i>Cinderella</i> by Walt Disney Pictures	Movie	1978	2045	C	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	C	
1960	<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee	Literary	1988	2055	C	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 28]	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	C	

### Works First Published Between 1964 and 1977

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Year Published	Example	Type of Work	Renewal Automatic—Copyright Expires in	Explanation	Explanations/Reasons
1964	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> by Bock & Harnick	Drama	2059	D	<p><b>D:</b> Initial term of 28 years beginning on publication with notice. In 1992, Congress passed legislation making the renewal term automatic for works in this class. Because the initial term in these works would have expired after 1992, no renewal was necessary, although an optional renewal registration could be made. The renewal term originally would have expired 75 years after the date of first publication. However, all such works would have still been under copyright in 1998, when the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA) became effective. That legislation further extended the term of copyright so that the renewal term now will expire 95 years after the initial publication date.</p>
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	D	
1970	<i>Bridge Over Troubled Water</i> by Paul Simon	Musical	2065	D	
...	...	...	[Yr. of Pub. + 95]	D	
1977	<i>The Shining</i> by Stephen King	Literary	2072	D	

**Works Created Before 1977 and Published Between 1978 and 2002**

Author Died in	Copyright Expires in	Explanation	Explanations/Reasons
1970 or earlier	2047	E	<p><b>E:</b> Unitary term of life of the author plus 70 years. However, under section 303 of the 1976 Act, if the work was published prior to the end of 2002, the copyright does not expire until 2047. Consequently, in cases in this category where the author died before 1977 (that is, 2047 minus 70 years), the work will remain protected until 2047.</p>
1971	2047	E	
1972	2047	E	
1973	2047	E	
1974	2047	E	
1975	2047	E	
1976	2047	E	
1977	2047	E	
1978	2048	F	<p><b>F:</b> Unitary term of life of the author plus 70 years. Although section 303 of the 1976 Act provides for a minimum duration of copyright through the end of 2047, in cases in this category where the author died after 1977 the life plus seventy term would extend past 2047, and thus will control.</p>
1979	2049	F	
1980	2050	F	
...	[70 Years After Author's Death]	F	

**Works Created Before 1977 and Either Published After 2002 or Never Published**

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Author Died in	Copyright Expires in	Explanation	Explanations/Reasons
1850	2002	G	G: Unitary term of life of the author plus 70 years. However, under section 303 of the 1976 Act, the minimum duration of copyright for works in this category is through the end of 2002. While the owners of those copyrights might have obtained an additional 45 years of protection (through 2047) by publishing prior to 2002, in this table we have assumed no such publication. Since the life-plus-70 term for works in this category would have ended before 2002, copyright would continue through December 31, 2002.
1900	2002	G	
1920	2002	G	
1930	2002	G	
1931	2002	G	
1932	2002	G	
1933	2003	H	H: Unitary term of life of the author plus 70 years. For works in this category, that term is longer than the guaranteed period through the end of 2002, and would therefore control. On the other hand, because there was no publication prior to 2002, the further guaranteed duration through 2047 is inapplicable.
1934	2004	H	
...	[70 Years After Author's Death]	H	

Current Copyright: