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### Wrestling with the 1909 Copyright Act in Theory and Practice

For the last two years, I have been working on concurrent projects that have both involved an entangled relationship with the 1909 Copyright Act. One is a theoretical piece (co-authored with Ron Gard) and the other is a software tool specifically addressing the intricacies of the 1909 Copyright Act within the context of copyright duration. Both projects have presented great struggles--neither have been easy. In trying to understand the struggle itself, I think I have found another layer to the inquiry--the why has revealed perhaps a greater understanding of a nearly impenetrable past. This essay will briefly describe the two projects themselves and the struggles with each of them, and suggest how these struggles are indicative of the act itself, perhaps, and may help us to understand our own contemporary relationship to the 1909 Act, as well as possibly the 1976 Copyright.