

# Is it in the Public Domain?

**FLOWCHARTS FOR EVALUATING THE COPYRIGHT STATUS  
OF A WORK CREATED IN THE UNITED STATES  
BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1923 AND DECEMBER 31, 1977**

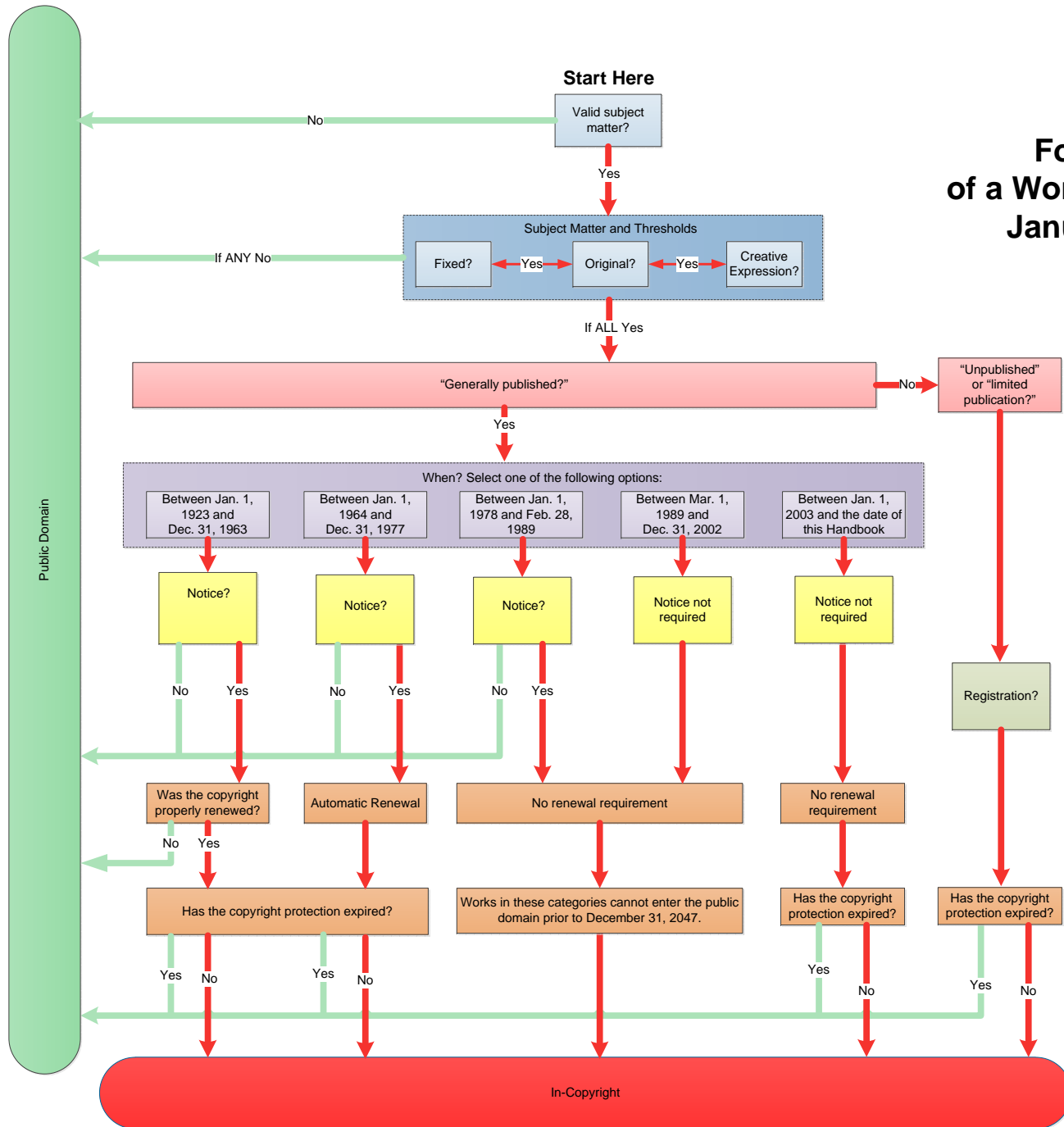
**USE WITH HANDBOOK: These flowcharts must  
be used in conjunction with the accompanying  
handbook, “Is it in the Public Domain?”**

May 27, 2014

Menesha A. Mannapperuma,  
Brianna L. Schofield, Andrea K. Yankovsky,  
Lila Bailey, and Jennifer M. Urban

# MASTER FLOWCHART

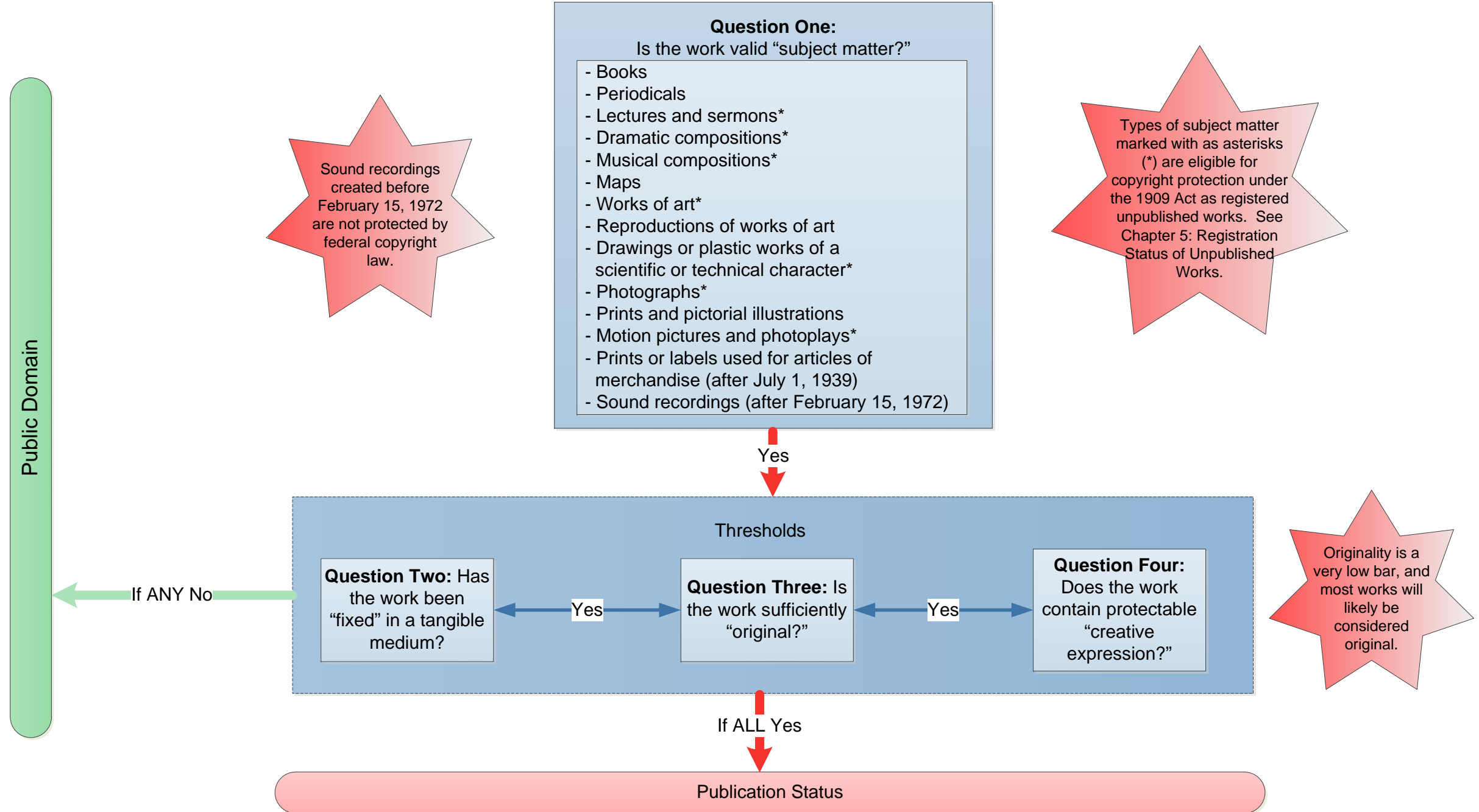
## For Evaluating the Copyright Status of a Work Created in the United States Between January 1, 1923 and December 31, 1977



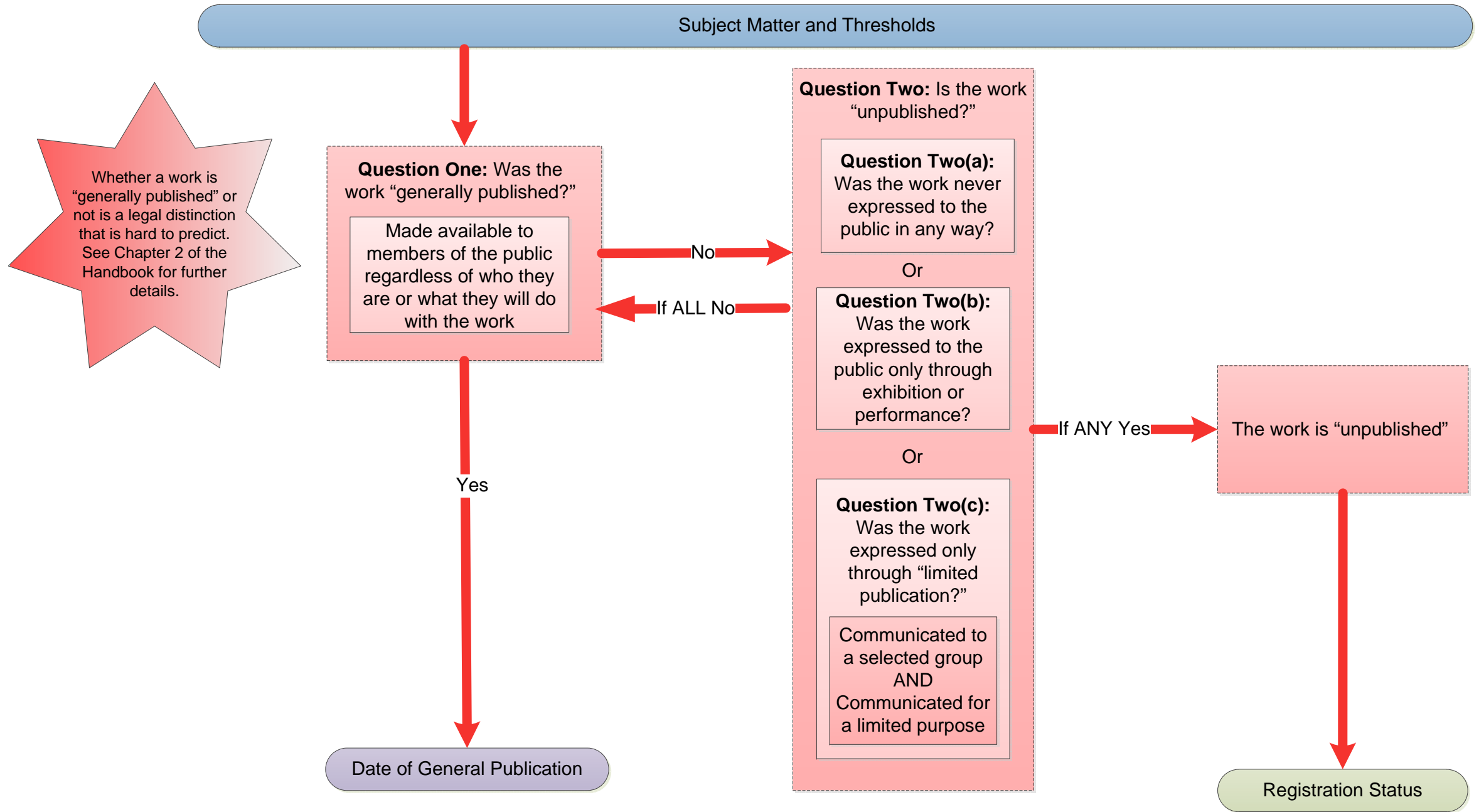
Legend	
Chapter 1: Subject Matter and Thresholds	<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Chapter 2: Publication Status	<span style="background-color: #FFC0CB; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Chapter 3: Date of General Publication	<span style="background-color: #9370DB; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Chapter 4: Notice Requirement for Generally Published Works	<span style="background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Chapter 5: Registration Status of Unpublished Works	<span style="background-color: #C8E6C9; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Chapter 6: Duration and Renewal	<span style="background-color: #FFCC99; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>

For more detailed information, please refer to the flowchart of each color-coded step and the corresponding Chapter in the accompanying Handbook.

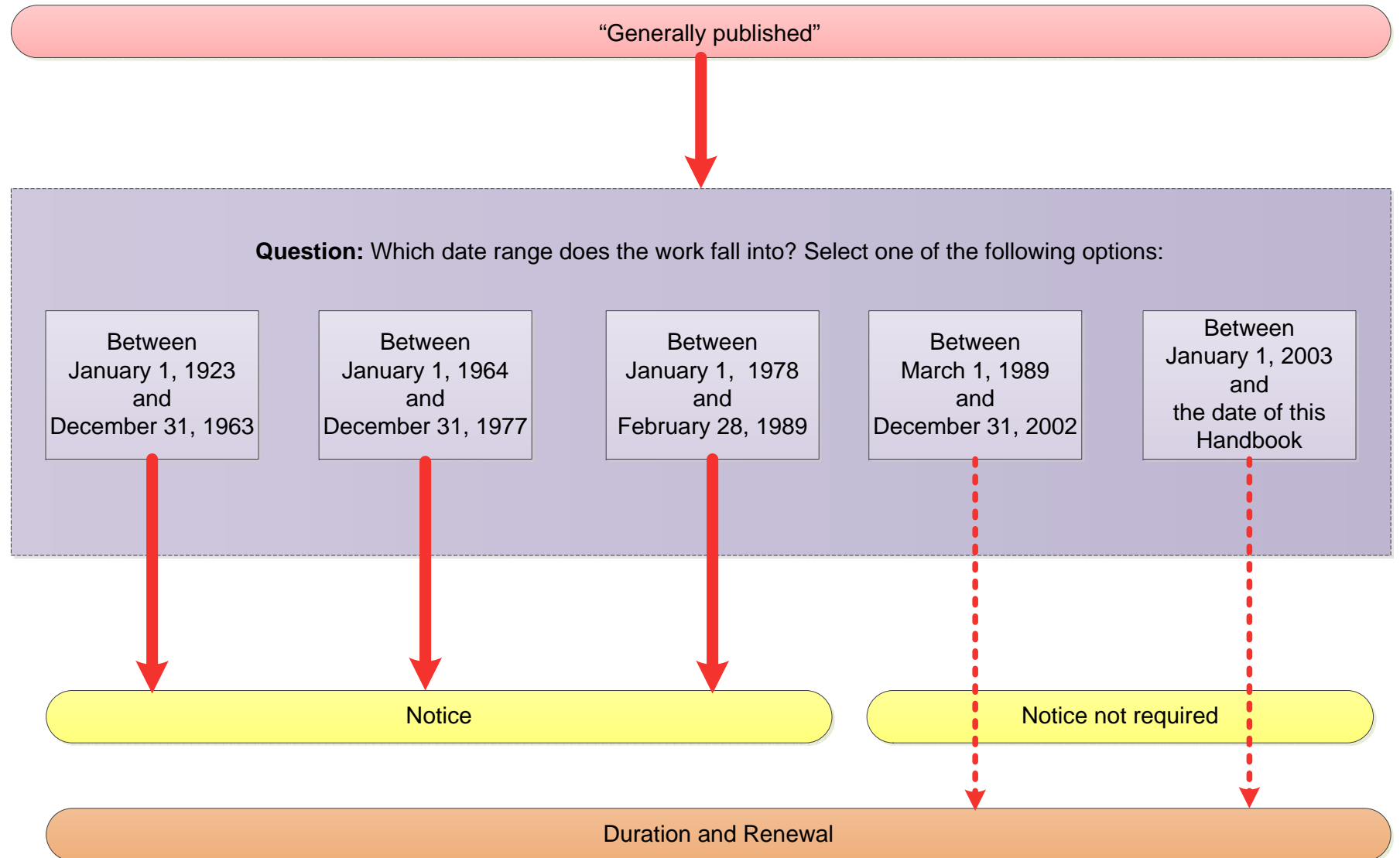
# FLOWCHART 1: SUBJECT MATTER AND THRESHOLDS (see Handbook Chapter 1)



## FLOWCHART 2: PUBLICATION STATUS (See Handbook Chapter 2)

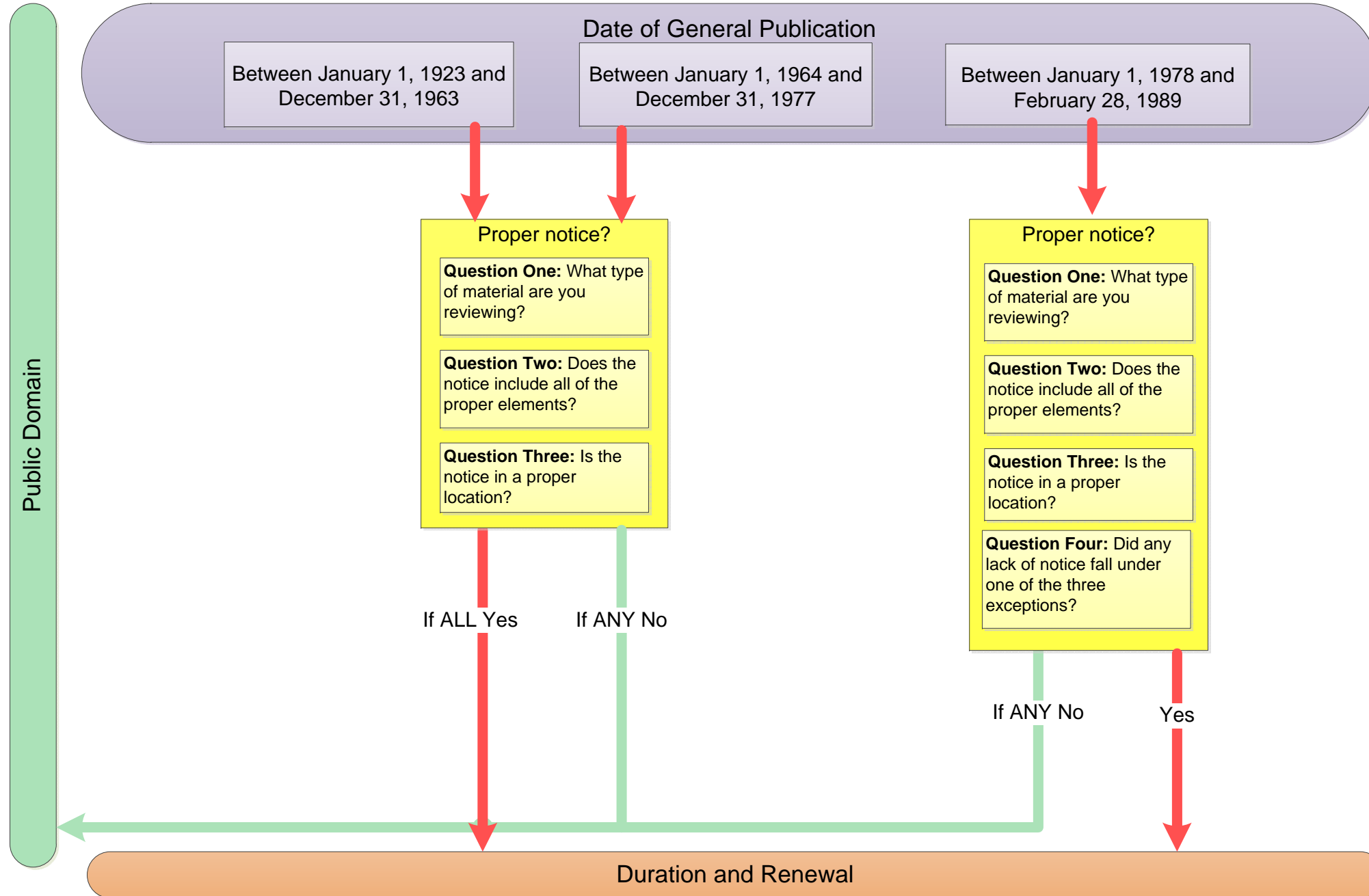


# FLOWCHART 3: DATE OF GENERAL PUBLICATION (See Handbook Chapter 3)

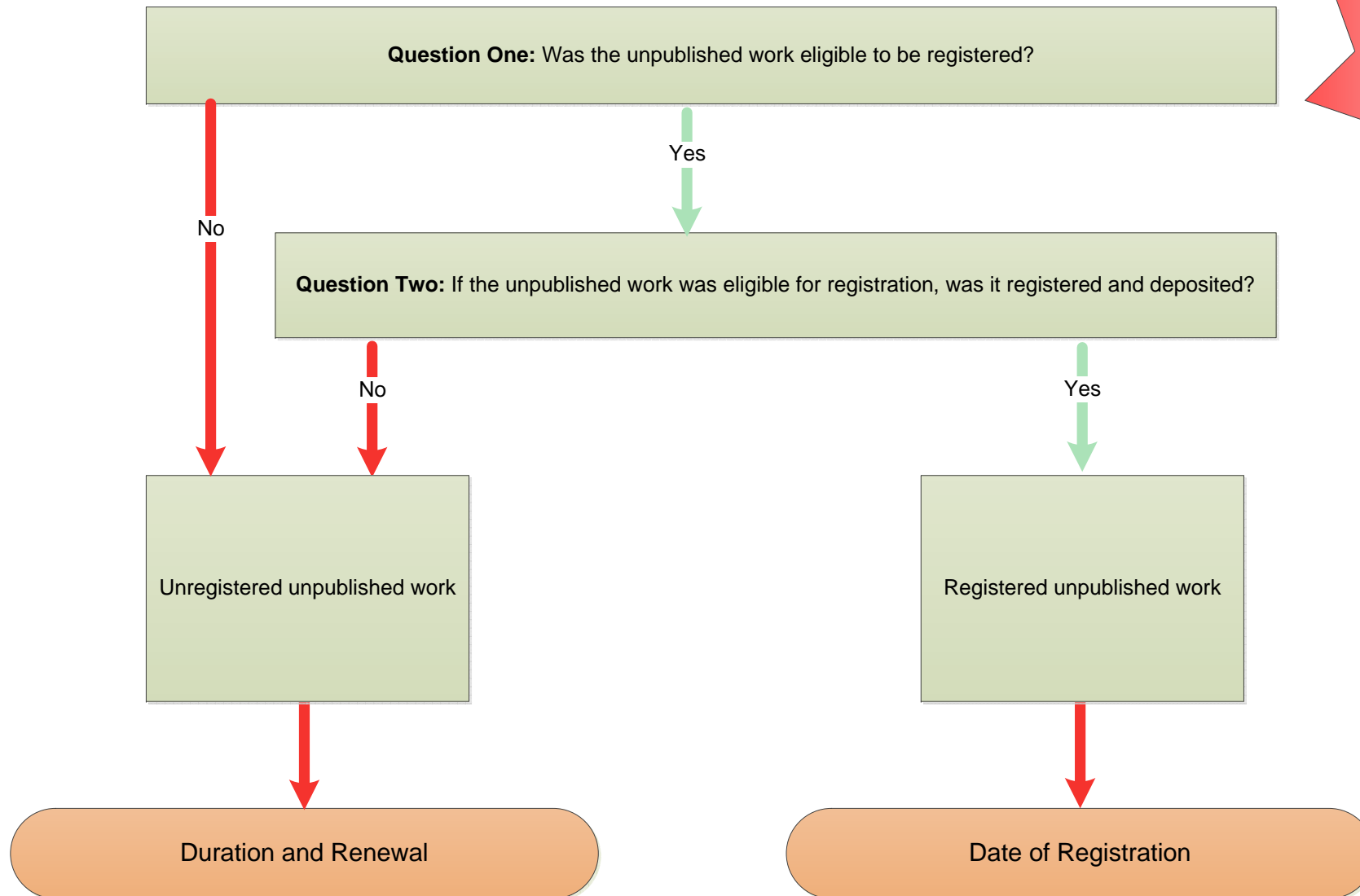


Works can be created on one date but not “generally published” until a much later date.

# FLOWCHART 4: NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR GENERALLY PUBLISHED WORKS (See Handbook Chapter 4)



**FLOWCHART 5: REGISTRATION STATUS OF UNPUBLISHED WORKS**  
(See Handbook Chapter 5)



Only certain types of works could be registered as unpublished works

- Types of works that could be registered as unpublished works :**
- Lectures and sermons
  - Dramatic compositions
  - Musical compositions
  - Works of art
  - Drawings or plastic works of a scientific or technical character
  - Photographs
  - Motion pictures and photoplays

## FLOWCHART 6: DURATION AND RENEWAL (See Handbook Chapter 6)

