

PD Provenance Declaration: A White Paper

Compass & Lantern Press | Version 1.5 | October 11, 2026

Once, it was generally reasonable to assume that a work had been created by a human being. Artificial intelligence has complicated that assumption. Today, humans and AI may participate in creating and preparing content in different ways. We think that distinction is worth making visible.

At Compass & Lantern Press (C&LP), we have chosen to address this with a simple Provenance Declaration (PD). It states what kind of content is involved, what participated in creating and preparing it, who makes the declaration, and when.

Five Fields

Content: The classification of the work, not its title. Examples include Book, Article, Essay, Letter, Email, Text Message, Post, Comment, Press Release, Newsletter, Report, White Paper, Website, Photograph, Illustration, Graphic, Video, Film, Song, Music, Audio Recording, Podcast, Conversation, Interview, Speech, Presentation, Advertisement, Brochure, Flyer, Manual, Recipe, or Software. These are examples, not a restricted list.

Creator: What created the content: Human, AI, or Human/AI.

Adminic: What assisted in developing, editing, preparing, or presenting the content: Human, AI, Human/AI, or None.

Declarant: The person or organization taking responsibility for the declaration.

Date: The date the declaration is made, in YYYY-MM-DD format. It is not necessarily the date the content was created or published. A book written forty years ago can receive a PD today.

How we use it

We put the fields on one line, separated by commas. For example:

PD. Content: Website, Creator: Human, Adminic: Human/AI, Declarant: C&LP, Date: 2026-08-31

Creator and Adminic identify kinds of participation, not the names of participants. A PD does not claim ownership, certify authenticity, or judge the quality of the work. It is a statement made by the declarant, who accepts responsibility for it.

Our convention is freely usable. There is no registration, permission, certification, or payment involved. We simply declare what we know and take responsibility for what we declare.

PD. Content: White Paper, Creator: Human/AI, Adminic: Human/AI, Declarant: C&LP, Date: 2026-10-11