BerkeleyLaw
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Samuelson Law, Technology
& Public Policy Clinic

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?"

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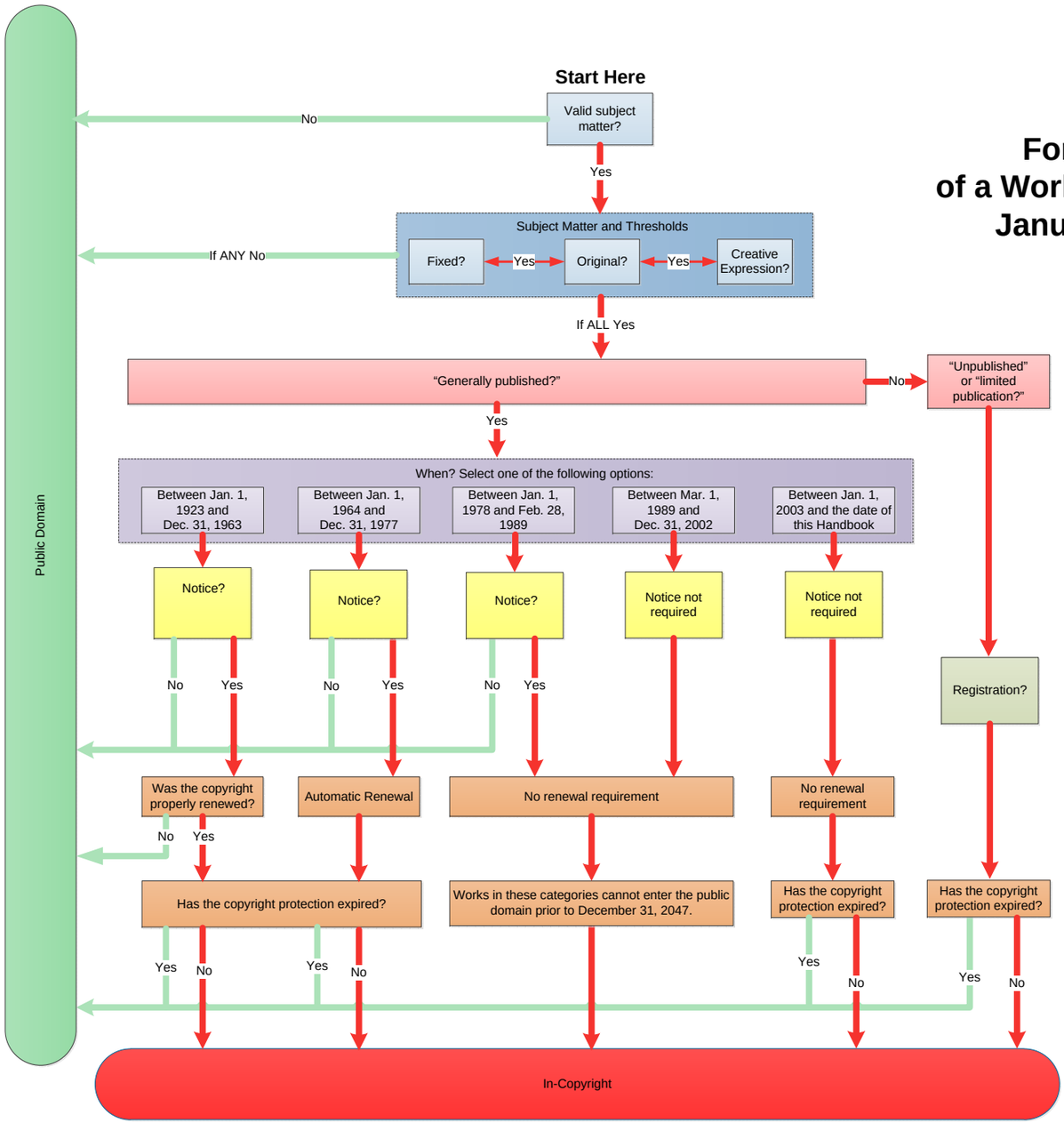
MASTER FLOWCHART

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

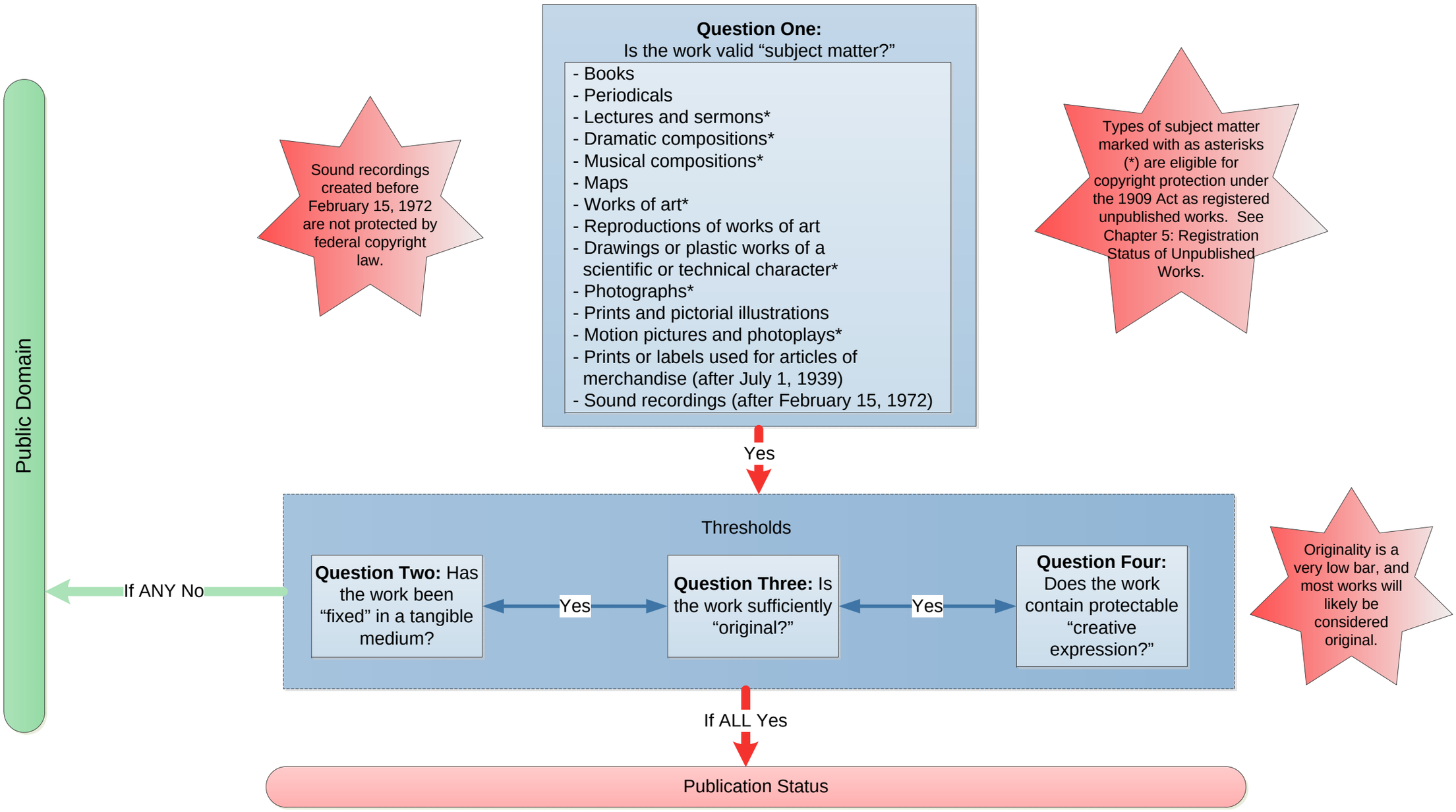


Legend

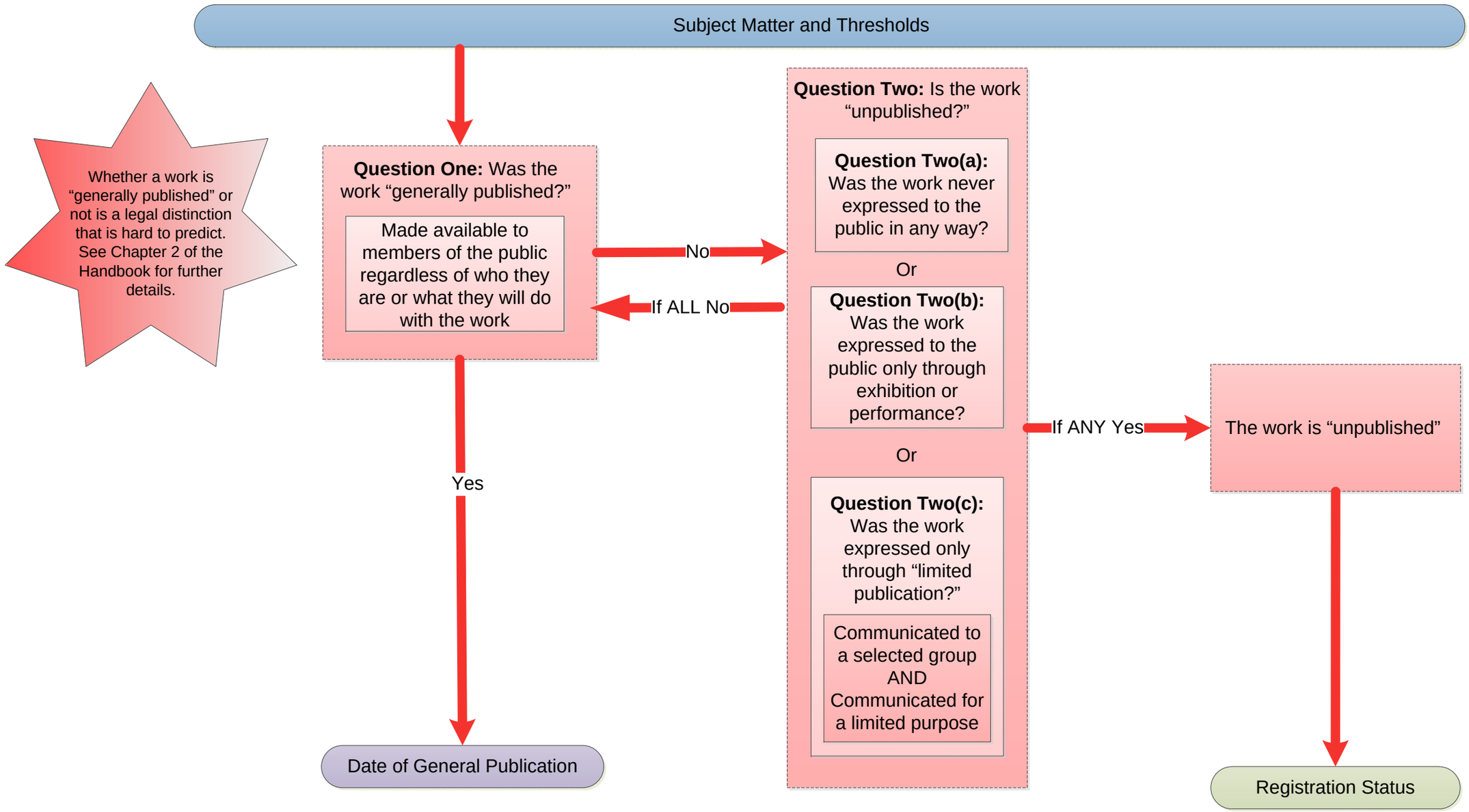
- Chapter 1: Subject Matter and Thresholds
- Chapter 2: Publication Status
- Chapter 3: Date of General Publication
- Chapter 4: Notice Requirement for Generally Published Works
- Chapter 5: Registration Status of Unpublished Works
- Chapter 6: Duration and Renewal

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

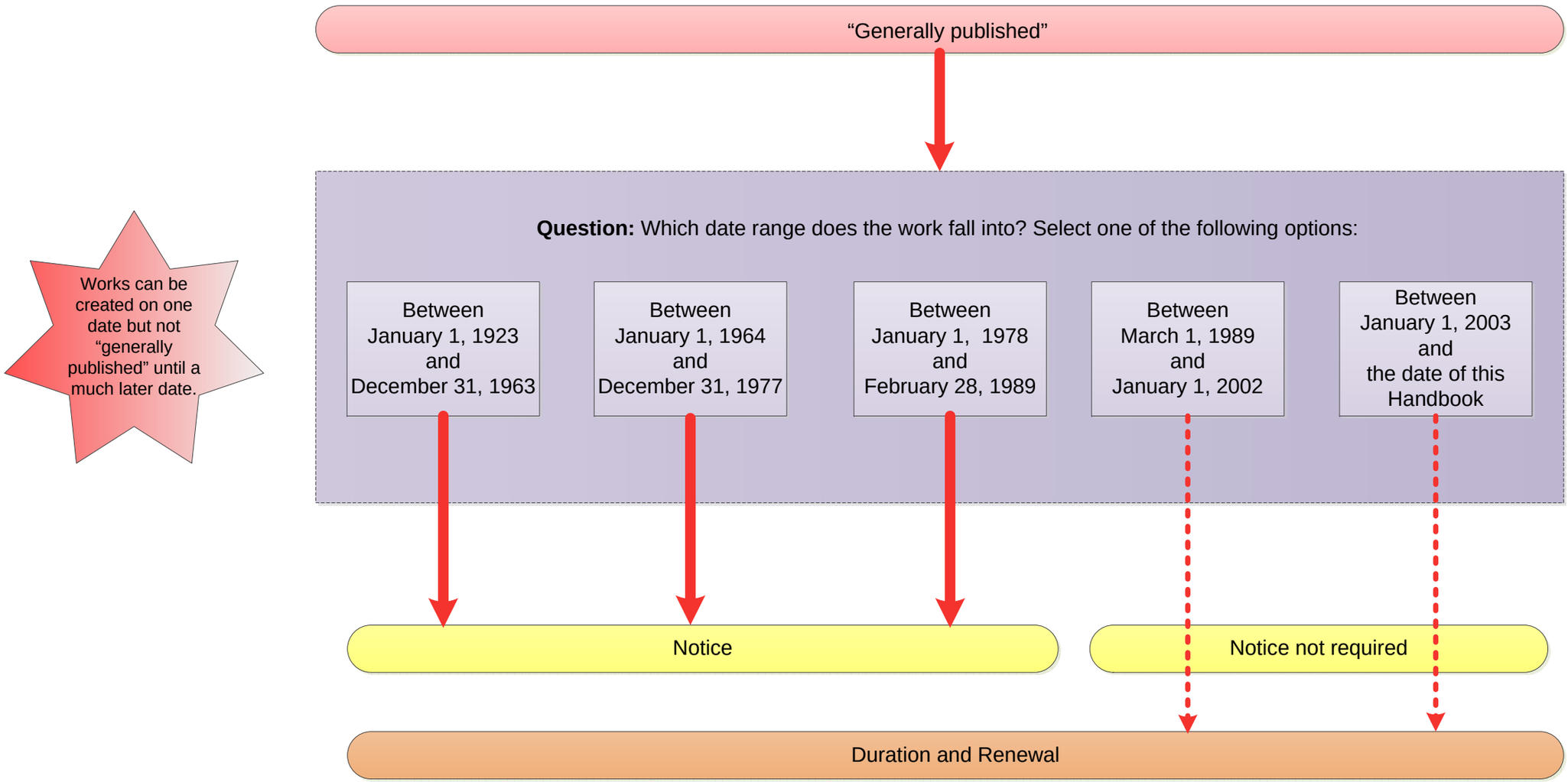
FLOWCHART 1: SUBJECT MATTER AND THRESHOLDS
(see Handbook Chapter 1)



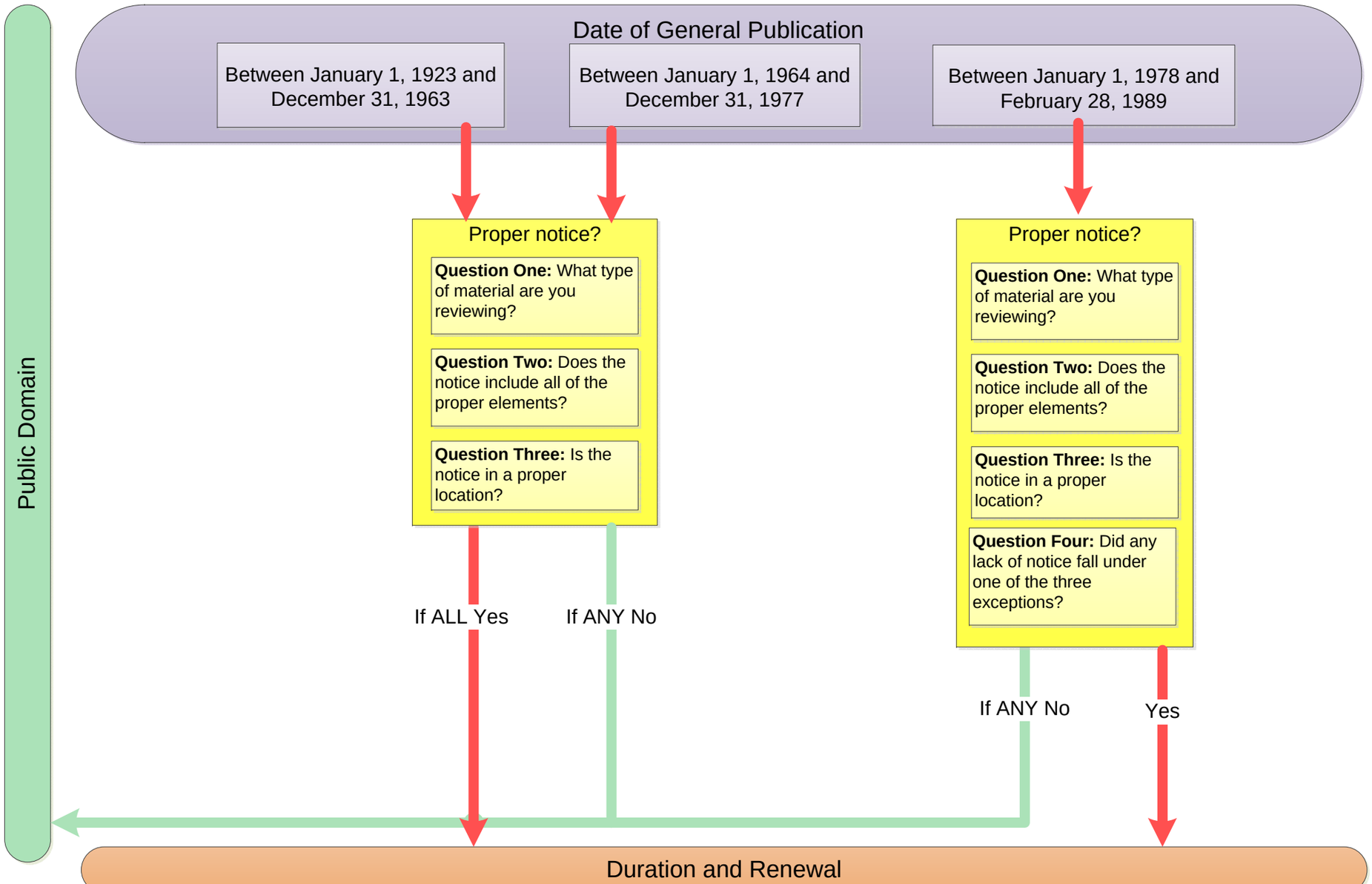
FLOWCHART 2: PUBLICATION STATUS
(See Handbook Chapter 2)



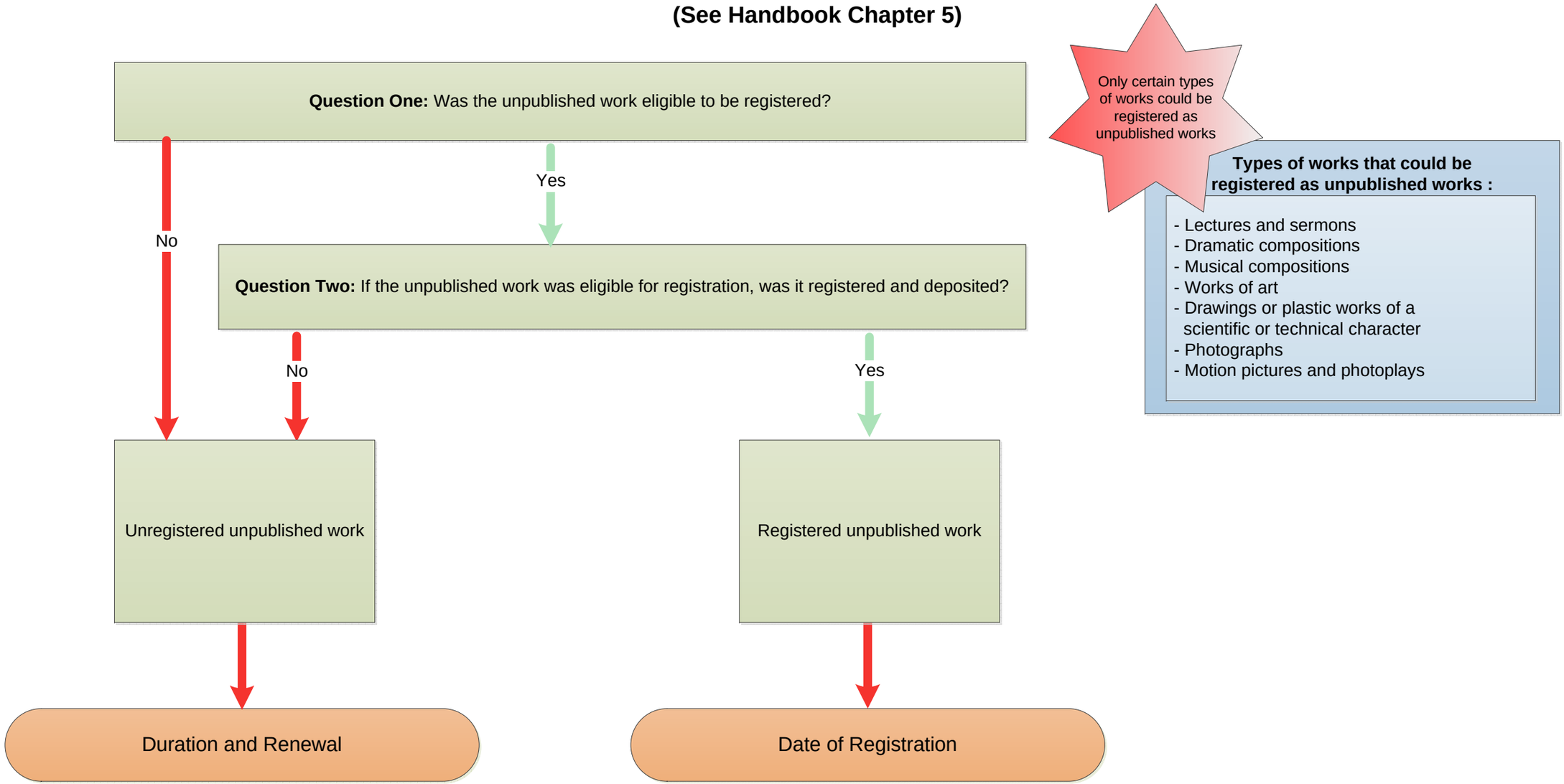
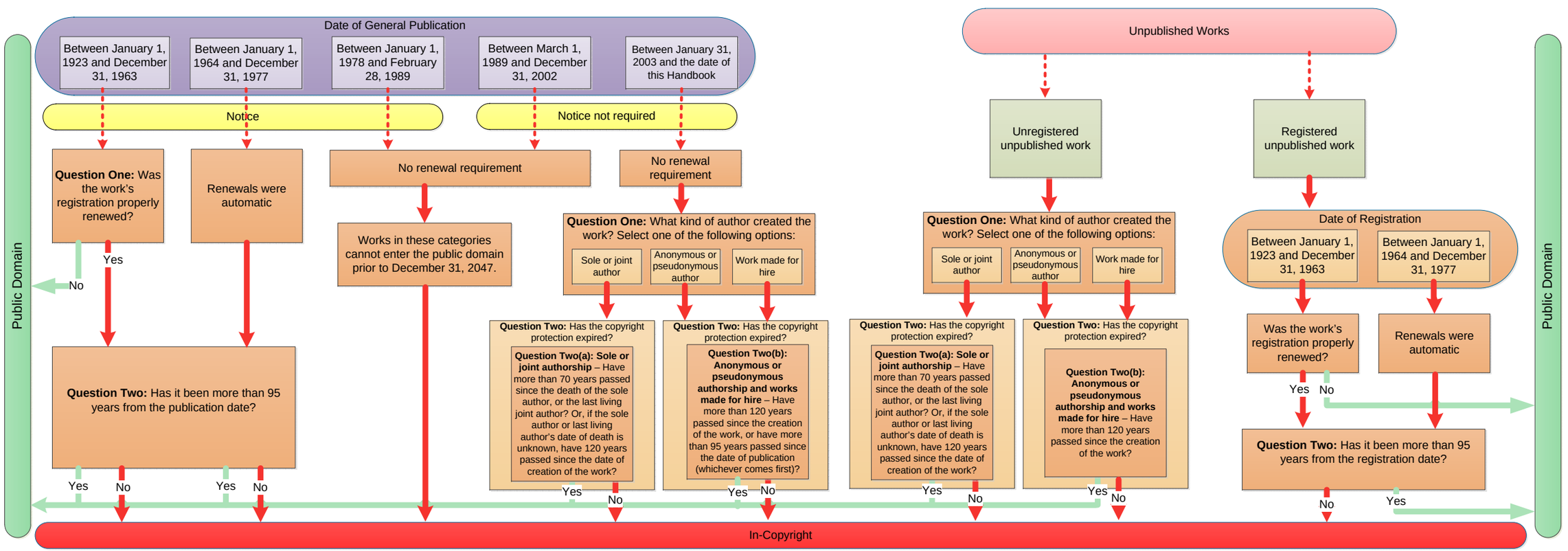
FLOWCHART 3: DATE OF GENERAL PUBLICATION
(See Handbook Chapter 3)



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



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



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