

April 27, 2014

Maria Pallante, Register of Copyrights

United States Copyright Office

Library of Congress

101 Independence Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Re: Notice of Inquiry on Orphan Works and Mass Digitization, February 10, 2014  
[Docket No.

2012-12]

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I am writing to comment on the issue of orphan works and mass digitization.

As a working musician, I stand with the Content Creators Coalition in opposing legislation that

permits use of my work without my knowledge or permission because a person or organization

claims that they were unable to identify or locate me -- and that allows others to benefit from my

works at my expense. Any such legislation would violate my rights as a copyright holder.

Proposals for orphan works legislation fail to take into account the realities of working

musicians' lives and the enormous difficulties we face in enforcing our rights so that we can earn

a living from our music. I am opposed to the efforts from technology corporations, along with

libraries, to exploit works that they identify as "orphan works" online with no compensation to

the creators. This is unfair and should not be supported by Congress. Additionally, I oppose the

fair use exception being applied to the mass digitization of orphan works. Fair use is too

broad

an exception for this activity.

Amendments to the copyright law will either reinforce the rights of copyright holders or they

will “legalize” the taking of creative works to enable profits by technology corporations and

benefits for libraries and archives but will make it difficult for creative people to reclaim rights in

their works.

Along with the Content Creators Coalition, I urge Congress to establish a fair licensing system

that enables creative people to benefit from our works. We also urge you to enhance your efforts

to learn from musicians and other creators about how amendments to copyright law would affect

us. No solution to the issue of orphan works and mass digitization should be considered unless it

respects the rights of creators. We create the works that enhance others’ lives. Please allow us to

earn a living from our own creations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vernon Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Musician