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Comment:

Hello, I am a coursepack coordinator at a university bookstore, and spend the bulk of my time trying to get permission for things. I have had numerous problems tracking down owners, although the spreading use of the internet has helped immensely. People still fall through the cracks though. I googled one author, and found several different email addresses for her, all at various institutions in the same geographical area, and tried to contact her at all of them. Some came back invalid, some I never got any response to. She is clearly still in the same area, but I was never able to track her down. I have used online telephone directories, emailed or written last known addresses, tried to find estate holders for deceased authors, but sometimes I have no luck. Hours of time and money can be wasted on these fruitless endeavors, which is very frustrating when trying to frantically get ready for the start of a new term. Now, the Copyright Clearance Center and Access Copyright (in Canada), can sometimes help with unlocatable copyright owners, and collecting royalties, but there are some items that still fall through the cracks. A central agency that could keep a log of permission attempts, grant permissions in an efficient manner (with or without royalties), and where authors could go to see if people are having trouble finding them and update their information, would be a lifesaver.