

Maria Pallante, Register of Copyright
U.S. Copyright Office
Library of Congress

6 May 2014

Re: Orphan Works and Mass Digitization
(FR Doc. 2014-02830; Copyright Office Docket Number 2012-12)

Dear Ms. Pallante:

There is no point in this Digital Age to for my works or the works of my fellow writers to be designated as “orphan works” subject to fair use. Locating a living author is not only easy by cross-referencing federal and state databases, but even private genealogical sites like Ancestry.com can locate a living writer with a minimum of research, even if the author used a pseudonym when his/her work was published. There has to be a reasonable effort to locate the author before works can be plundered for personal gain by those who were not part of the creative process.

As a creator of published works I don't feel as if my rights are being sufficiently considered or protected by talk of new initiatives or legislation that do not take into account new technologies or new business models that writers like me use to earn a living these days.

A fair decision on this matter can only be reached with the input of working writers. I urge you to hold public hearing to this effect. It's hard enough to make a living these days without having to worry about piracy.

Sincerely,

Steve Benton

