

As a content creator for more than 30 years (author of eight books, more than 1000 articles, and various videos and other ways to organize information), I am strongly on the side of defending the rights vested in content creators under copyright.

The attempt to remove "orphan works" from copyright protection is merely a lazy attempt to bypass creators' rights and avoid obtaining permission and/or paying fees. And the more inexcusable because many content creators are surprisingly easy to trace.

I would say that it only makes sense to release orphan works into the public domain if the user can DOCUMENT a through and extensive attempt to contact the rights holder with at least 50 steps, including checking every instance of the rights holder's name that shows up in a Google search...checking with content-creator membership organizations such as the national Writers Union, Authors Guild, ASJE, etc. and their equivalents in film, music, or other media...and attempting to contact through publishers and media distributors.

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