

From: David Nelson

Comment:

As a student in San Francisco State's cinema department I used footage that we had in the archives for several projects. Using them for student projects fell well within the realm of fair use. I spoke with one of my professors regarding sending my senior project to a couple of festivals to get some good publicity and possibly get access to other projects when I graduated.

Unfortunately, I had some black and white footage that came from the archives that I couldn't really remove from the project or replicate. Even though the film was more than 30 years old I knew I couldn't use it and there was no way to find the copyright holder.

I believe that a creator needs a short term monopoly on their creation to recoup development costs. However, after the majority of possible income from a work has been generated it should fall into public domain to allow the public to benefit. If the creator needs an extension of their copyright then they should at least have to fill out an application showing that they are still interested in maintaining it.