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To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 02/28/2005

From: Jeffrey L Thomas

Comment:

Like other government methods of locating owners, there should be a process set-up where references to the orphan work is posted online in an attempt to contact the rightful owner. The rightful owner would have to prove they own that work. After a proscribed period where no rightful owner is found (180 days?), the work is no longer copyrighted and passes to the public domain. Unfortunately lawyers will get involved as will the courts vice a knowledgeable public official which will slow this process down immeasurably. This would be a fair method for all parties. Copyright should NOT be extended indefinitely as Mickey Mouse has. This is not a keep the wealthy, wealthy provision. Life time of the author or 30 years, no extensions. Thanks for your time.