

Rorabaugh-David-20050314070024

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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: David Rorabaugh

Comment:

I would support discontinuing copyright protection for any work if the author or copyright holder does not actively seek extension. Many orphan works retain copyright only because it was automatic. While I am in general in favor of shorter copyright terms, I do not believe there should be any automatic renewals or extensions. Even when the law is changed to allow for a longer term, I believe it should take direct action by the holder for the copyright to be extended.

When considering orphan works, please consider the public interest in reclaiming these works, rather than the interests of the (at best inactive) copyright holder. If the holder does not file for an extension, copyright should expire at the earliest date possible.