

B-Fedak-Gail -20050322113004

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

Date: 03/22/2005

From: Gail B. Fedak  
Address1: MTSU - Instructional Media Resources

Comment:

Instructional Media Resources, the Media Library at Middle Tennessee State University, has a large number of audio and video programs in its collection that were purchased over 10 years ago. Many of these programs are still relevant, especially for research purposes. They are currently in analog formats that are becoming fragile or are deteriorating with age.

We have, over the past decade, attempted to secure copyright clearance to transfer these programs to digital formats so our faculty and students can continue to use them. In all but a few instances, we have drawn a blank on copyright ownership. We did locate the copyright holder for The Vital History Cassettes and secured permission to transfer them to a new format. We are not seeking to avoid securing licenses or permission from copyright holders. However, when reasonable efforts fail to identify copyright holders, we cannot preserve our holdings so our patrons can have continued access to information not found in materials currently available for purchase.

Expanding the scope of the Orphan Works exemptions will greatly facilitate our efforts to keep cultural and academic programs available for research and education. Thank you for your consideration of the needs of the academic community.