

Maria Pallante, Register of Copyright
U.S. Copyright Office
Library of Congress
Re: Orphan Works and Mass Digitization
(FR Doc. 2012-25932; Copyright Office Docket Number 2012-12)

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I endorse the comments submitted to the Copyright Office by the National Writers Union regarding pending Orphan Works legislation.

I oppose any "orphan works" legislation that permits use of my work or my other writer's works without my knowledge or permission merely because someone claims they were unable to identify or locate me or any person or entity that they thought held certain rights to my work.

Rather than allow my rights to be violated, I suggest we create a national registry for these works, similar to the Digital Object Identifier project for scholarly publications. See <http://www.doi.org/faq.html>.

Such a database or clearinghouse would be the first place to go to check for reprint permissions. We could possibly link this database to the DOI.org records and/or those records managed by the Copyright Clearance Center, <http://www.copyright.com/>, creating a comprehensive database for which then there would be no reason for someone to claim an author could not be identified.

We could easily establish an authoritative entity to manage these registry records and in doing so protect the rights of the authors creating these works.

Sincerely,

Paul Gorski
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