

I applaud your efforts to make orphaned copyrighted works available to the public.

I am the author of over 20 computer books published by Que. The last one was printed in 1997. Due to the constant advancement of computer technology, all of my books are outdated and are consequently out of print.

I believe my works still hold some value as reference works for those who are working with old technology, and as research material for those investigating the history of computing. However, Que holds the copyrights to this material, so it cannot be reprinted or distributed.

I realize that the major thrust of your investigation concerns those works to which the copyright owner cannot be found, I believe there is also a need to induce copyright holders to release their works under a "copyleft" form of protection if they have not published or distributed those works for a defined period of time, or if it can otherwise be shown that such works no longer have viable commercial value. Perhaps this could be done by offering publishers a tax writeoff scaled to the anticipated value to the public good.

Thank you for your efforts in this area.

Mark R. Brown