

I would like to give my opinion that orphan works should be allowed to enter the public domain if their creator/copyright holder cannot be located to extend copyright. This would allow individual creators, schls and public domain libraries (eg, Project Gutenberg) to use the works as true reference materials, since not being able to locate a copyright owner would otherwise prevent this usage and would be a great boon to the general public.

Since the Copyright Ofc would have first attempted to locate the creator/copyright holder of said works, and a work would only enter the public domain if this location proved impossible, then all fairness would have been given to the rights of the creator/copyright holder, w/the result that no creator/copyright holder could later claim he had been treated unfairly.

Thank you,

Maureen LaWent