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Re. the OP book, *Pioneers in Brass* by Glenn D. Bridges (now re-published on CD-ROM)

<http://www.bookbay.com/PioneersInBrass.htm>

Yes, I'm concerned that something will be promulgated that doesn't make a lot of sense, but there are concerns of having copyright too long, thus keeping people and organizations from using otherwise good material, information, and keeping history from access.

In my case, a nephew of the author, we tried to bring back into print his work via a non-profit organization shortly after it went out of print and then the late author's wife died. As happened, the organization expected to re-publish the book was not able to complete the license contract and the project was placed in my hands. From the time of the transfer to the organization and back, and other delays, it was nearly 13 years before the work was finally brought back in print via electronic CD-ROM. An essay about this project can be found at:

http://www.sla.org/chapter/cpnw/interface/pastinterfaceissues/2001_07/Interface2001_07/musings.htm

During this time I contacted many people and found that indeed people were copying the book for others without permission. Many of the 1972 editions were updated as Mr. Bridges had more copies and additional articles bound into the book. And it was no secret that Mr. Bridges did not expect to make a profit on his book in any case, he only wanted it available as widely as possible. In that same vain, the project of reproducing the book on CD-ROM will never be profitable. That it is now somewhat searchable in the electronic version, and is an improvement over the print book, along with the fact that we could add from the author's recording collection, the profiled persons playing solos, does not diminish the fact that many people would prefer the printed work, or facsimile.

While it is now available electronically and probably will shortly become an item online (legally or illegally) as an ebook or such, it will then be time to update and add to the work significantly...however there is no monetary incentive on anyone's part, including several prominent publishers and organizations, to either make this available online or update the work, or convert it to print formats.

Given such a situation as my uncle's significant book, and the process it took to get it republished, I would say there needs to be a condition set for orphaned books such as this one, except in the case of this one, I was able to bring it back to life and giving access to others of its contents.

My best guess is that, an estate/company needs to be informed in some manner, that any copyrights not contemplated for republication will revert to public domain. But that the time element between the occasion of the OP and the reprint would be no longer than 15 years. (My project almost died after 10 years.)