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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Copyright Office
Orphan Works

Comment on Orphan Works:

The comic book industry is usually perceived as composed of two publishing entities: Marvel and DC Comics. However, there have been many smaller companies over the last six decades who have entered the market and later gone out of business.

As such, surviving copies of the titles they published are rare, and their preservation as works of commercial art is dubious because of existing copyright laws. Marvel and DC may easily publish a 'reprint' volume, but a fan or entrepreneur who would like to scan in or republish comics whose copyright holders cannot be located remains stymied.

A comprehensive preservation project of these works cannot be done unless and until the status of orphan works is determined by your office. Since many of these comics books were not printed on paper designed to survive for decades, there a window of time in which this preservation can be done. If the status quo remains, we will most likely lose many books to decay or neglect.

Thank you for your attention.