

Lackey-Mercedes-20050225170003

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 02/25/2005

From: Mercedes Lackey

Comment:

I am a much-published fiction writer, and personally, I want my work in the public domain after I'm gone. I have no real heirs other than my husband, so who is going to benefit from tying my works up?

I have had numerous times in doing my own work when I have had to not use something (which I believe weakened the end-product) because I didn't know if it was in public domain. My publishers all require the authors to do this research themselves, and who can afford that?

Why not simply make a pool for payment to works that are "orphaned," so that fair use is protected, those who should pay have some place to pay into, and if the copyright holder ever crawls out of the bowels of the earth, he can apply to the fund-managers for payment.