

R-Fruchterman-James-20050226133003

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

Date: 02/26/2005

From: James R. Fruchterman  
Title: CEO  
Org: Benetech

Comment:

My nonprofit organization provides books to people with disabilities under Section 121 via an internet-based system, bookshare.org. However, we want to serve disabled people around the world with bookshare.org. Since U.S. copyright law doesn't rule in other countries, we need permission of the copyright holder to provide their books. Most copyright holders would give such permission willingly. However, the cost to track down copyright holders on a case by case basis is prohibitive. We need an easy and cheap way to know that a work has an owner and how to contact them, or that a work is orphaned and that the public's interest is served by making it available more widely.