

Moon-Flora-20050302100003

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

Date: 03/02/2005

From: Flora Moon

Comment:

I am a documentary filmmaker who had a two year challenge trying to clear rights from three continents, non-profit institutions, corporations, governments and private individuals. Eventually I had to remove images that I could not trace.

There is very little help for individuals seeking to use footage not owned by media organizations or archival sources like Corbis who charge a premium for the material.

When the only source of archival material is from corporations, the opportunity for creativity, innovation or sharing is stifled.

Do we want all of our documents, films, books, etc. to look alike using the same materials over and over because, by default, they are the only ones that can be cleared? While I am a copyright holder, I must request that the use of orphan copyright materials be released for public use or the concept of fair use should be extended for these orphan works. This is the one way to keep the intellectual wealth of our country in circulation