

E-Van-Cleef-Robert-20050312113006

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

Date: 03/12/2005

From: Robert E. Van Cleef

Comment:

I used to publish a periodical for a small, nonprofit educational organization. It was not uncommon to find old books, fliers or newsletters, with things of interest to my audience, that were not usable because the copyright status was unknowable and the copyright holder, if there was one, was unreachable.

The old requirement of having to request an extension of a copyright helped identify that information which was available for republication.

Given the tools available today. An internet based system could easily be established to allow those who wish to maintain their copyrights and trademarks an easy method to do so. And, conversely, allow copyrights and trademarks that are no longer needed to expire, becoming usable by the general public.