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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Gregg Williams

Comment:

I strongly believe that the United States system of copyrights is seriously broken, primarily because it prevents the return of many creative works to the public domain. In addition, the longer a work remains private under copyright, the more likely it is to disappear entirely from view.

If "orphan works" can be returned to the public domain, they can be preserved by collective, not-for-profit enterprises such as Project Gutenberg.

For this and many other reasons, I strongly urge the US government to create a procedure for placing orphan works back into the public domain. By doing so, we preserved and enrich our shared cultural history.

Thank you.