

Dye-Cynthia-20050315200014

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

Date: 03/15/2005

From: Cynthia Dye

Comment:

I think that there should be a small fee paid for the use of "orphan works" (I'm talking twenty bucks here) which goes into a trust fund. If the copyright owner is found, they can get the fee plus whatever interest has accrued, as long as they are found within ten years. After ten years, the money would be returned with interest to the person who paid it, as a thank you for trying to do the right thing, minus half the interest which would pay for the database maintenance.

This would not apply to things which obviously predate the limits of copyright, or which strongly seem to predate the limits, although with a small enough fee, most people wouldn't mind paying, rather than going through the hassle of proving that an item was too old for copyright.