

Greetings,

I'm glad to hear that you might change the copyright laws because I've certainly run into problems. I'm a filmmaker and have often used archival material in my work.

First of all, here's the info you requested:

As I said, I've made films that use copyrighted material, but often very old material, and it's been extremely difficult at times to locate the owner of the work. There doesn't seem to be a main clearing house for information (even though there is the Copyright Office, I sometimes haven't been able to get any information). I don't have any specific suggestions for how to reorganize or streamline the system, but anything you can do would be a great help. Especially with older work (anything before the 1980's), it seems hard, and I know many other filmmakers who also incorporate those kinds of materials in their films and videos, it's a very common thing for people to do these days and I think it's going to increase.

Sorry not to be more helpful, I mostly wanted to say that there is a problem and anything that can be done to fix it would be a great help to a great many of us.

Best wishes,

Su Friedrich