

Kilfiger-James-20050323200003

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

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From: James Kilfiger

Comment:

At wikipedia we make use of various images, many are public domain or "free" (as in speech), but we also use copyright images under fair use provisions.

We try to obtain permission for the use of our images, but frequently this isn't possible, when no source is to be found. This has resulted in many images that could be used being deleted from the site. It's a shame as it makes the encyclopedia less useful to all.

If US law was to require attribution, and this fact became well known it might enable works to be more widely distributed if this is the copyright holder's intention and thereby promote the arts and sciences better.

A defense of "fair attempt" to find a copyright holder against a copyright suit would allow us to use images without source. And a clearing house to help users find copyright holders would also assist us.

Development of internet searching technologies to enable finding sources of images on the internet can also allow us to contact copyright holders.