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It's difficult to use older computers without older software, and yet the companies that made the software have routinely passed out of existence. How's a student to cite a magazine or encyclopedia whose owners can't be found anymore? Should it be illegal for websites to mirror free content if the originator can't be found?

Orphaned works make up a large part of our cultural and intellectual basis; it's foolish to lock them away and have no one benefit, when people are right here asking for the chance to make something of these items. The whole point of copyright is that an author gets a temporary monopoly, and then afterwards, the work becomes an orphan or ward of the commons; with these works, the process is merely carried to term before the temporary monopoly's over.