

Dear Ms Pallante:

I am a professional working on digital access in academic libraries, archives, and museums. I am also an artist working in new mediums that are only just beginning to be available in this age of mass digitization and big data.

The current extreme length of copyright monopoly combined with the lack of a simple means of providing relief to the consuming public are choking our cultural heritage which as always relies upon that which came before.

I agree with Society of American Archivists President Kathleen Roe who concludes that, "...archival collections are brimming with rich stories and essential information that cannot find their readers because of the long duration of copyright. The failure of Congress to create a workable system for digitization effectively imprisons our shared cultural heritage."

I further agree w/ the SAA position that "the proposed orphan works and mass digitization solutions will do nothing to help archivists provide access to our shared cultural heritage."

Please go back to the drawing board and include more voices from the cultural heritage and education sectors as well as advocates for individual consumers and artists.

Yours Sincerely,
Derek Merleaux