

Richards-Edward-20050323120002

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

Date: 03/23/2005

From: Edward Richards
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Comment:

I am a law professor who studies the history of health and public health law. I electronically republish classic works on the Internet for free public use, as well as do traditional scholarly writing. There are many books from the 1920s to the 1960s that are out of print, from publishers who are out of business, with authors long dead. Even when the publisher is still in business, they seldom have the rights to old out of print books because they were usually given back to the authors when the book went out of print. Since these were originally scholarly works with limited circulation, few authors had any arrangements for a literary estate so there is no one to contact. Just tracking to a dead end can take years of time.