ORPHAN WORKS ACT SAGA

COMMENT BY: THADDEUS J. KOCHANNY

The Act's troubled nine year history is herein incorporated by reference.
See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_work

Many failed attempts precede the current effort. The logjam appears to be graphics and visual media works. An unknowable number of print works have been lost since 2006 because there is no practical law in place exempting researchers and private document users from infringement action.

I belong to the Automatic Musical instrument Collectors Assn. Membership is world-wide from Switzerland to Japan. It is small, fewer than 1,500. We collect, restore, appreciate and preserve mechanical music machines. http://www.amica.org. For our own use on our restricted online website, volunteers scan printed material no longer available for purchase. The internet's language menu is our best communication. Future AMICA generations depend on us for continuing information access.

The Copyright Office in 2008 led in getting the Act passed. It only made it through the Senate. Now, apparently without explanation, that version is ignored. You are trying to reinvent the wheel! Suggest you revisit the 2008 version and recommend it for passage. Doing so shall end the ongoing loss of irreplaceable printed material lost because of the copyright cloud.

When members "gift" their library to a school like the University of Maryland, the collection is sequestered and potential users must go to College Park, be vetted and study on site. None are allowed to remove works for off-site study. Worse, high copying prices make duplication cost prohibitive. This is not how rare works should be protected. Without the Act, they are virtually lost! Each year, publishing houses merge. Survivors drop copyrights on unmarketworthy works. They are lost or go unclaimed and unprotected. Please consider this when you offer your current Orphan Works Act proposal.