

Name: Keenan Conner

Question: Dear Director, I am writing to express my strong support for Archive.org's request for a DMCA exemption and to advocate for the loosening of the DMCA's provisions around circumvention, particularly as they pertain to the preservation of digital content and access to knowledge. As a significant resource for historical, educational, and cultural materials, Archive.org plays a crucial role in ensuring that valuable digital content remains accessible for future generations. The restrictions imposed by the DMCA, particularly those related to anti-circumvention, pose substantial challenges to the preservation of these materials. Without the ability to circumvent digital locks on obsolete or unsupported digital formats, much of our digital heritage is at risk of being lost forever. The importance of Archive.org's work cannot be overstated. It provides access to millions of books, audio recordings, videos, and web pages, serving as an invaluable repository for researchers, educators, students, and the general public. Allowing a DMCA exemption for Archive.org would enable it to continue its mission of preserving and providing access to a broad range of digital content that would otherwise become inaccessible due to technological obsolescence. Moreover, the current DMCA provisions hinder legitimate activities that fall under fair use, such as educational purposes, research, and the archiving of digital content. The law, as it stands, disproportionately impacts libraries, archives, and educational institutions by limiting their ability to fulfill their roles in preserving and disseminating knowledge. A more flexible approach to the DMCA's anti-circumvention rules would better balance the rights of copyright holders with the public's interest in maintaining access to cultural and educational materials. I urge the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to recognize the critical need for Archive.org's DMCA exemption and to consider broader reforms that would allow for the circumvention of digital locks in cases where the purpose is to preserve and provide access to digital content. Such changes are essential for ensuring that our digital heritage remains intact and accessible for future generations. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely, Keenan conner