

McFarland-Stephen-20050506053002

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

Date: 05/06/2005

From: Stephen McFarland

Comment:

I am a documentary filmmaker. "Found footage" is an indispensable element of my work. Too often documentary films are compromised by the unfortunate legal situation around orphaned works: filmmakers are forced to remove found and archival footage from their work for fear of lawsuits from copyright holders that in many cases they have no way of contacting for permission.

Please remedy this situation by allowing works with a copy right that hasn't been actively renewed to enter the public domain after a reasonable period of time, say five or ten years. This important move will allow filmmaking and a whole range of creative and informative communication to blossom in its full glory.

Best regards,  
Steve