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Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Tobe Liebert  
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Comment:

As a librarian involved in several digitization projects at the University of Texas at Austin, the problem of "orphan works" has been a real impediment for the creation of web-based resources. For one of our current projects, involving the digitization of selected papers of a U.S. Supreme Court justice, we want to use an image from a newspaper from 1960. The newspaper, however, went out of business in 1963 and this has made it impossible to determine where we would go to secure permission to use the image. When a small business has been gone for 40 years, there is no realistic way to track down rights holders. Appropriate legislation to address this issue would be a great help to persons creating educational content on the web.