

Kamath-Sean-20050316223003

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

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From: Sean Kamath

Comment:

My wife is a teacher with a homeschooling organization. She often writes coursework for her company. In writing English coursework, she has had a huge problem hunting down copyright holders, and in fact has gone out of her way to select material that is either already in the public domain, or select material that is in compilations that can be sold from existing distributors.

The end-result of this is a compromise in the coursework. For fear of a copyright holder coming out of the woodwork to claim their rights, she dare not risk the company exposure to even a single copyright risk. Thus, she is forced to select stories and novels that may not be as apropos to the subject as she would like.

If it were accepted that either a nominal fee or registration must be completed for a copyright work to protect the work, a huge number of works would default to the public domain, and thus allow her to include the material. As an additional benefit, the copyright registration would include contact information thus allowing her to communicate with the copyright holder or their agent, and negotiate terms for use.

I would personally appreciate it if the copyright system were fixed (and not perpetually extended to protect Mickey), but if this minor correction were to be implemented, we'd all be a lot happier.