

McKamey-Jonathan-20050226070003

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

Date: 02/26/2005

From: Jonathan McKamey

Comment:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have found much Poetry online which is no longer available, either due to out of print books, or due to unknown copyright issues. In many cases, this poetry is on a computer located outside of the US, in an effort to minimize litigation.

It would be most valuable, if there were some database of works that have been known to expire, or a database of works that are known to be still under copyright. This would allow book publishers to know which hard to find work (many of which are orphaned) they can or cannot publish.

It is a disgrace to the American value of "freedom of speech" that there are works of literature which are (for all practical uses) locked away due to the sheer amount of time and effort it would take to search out their copyright status.

The point of copyright is to encourage innovation and creation, not to stifle it.