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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Adam Grove

Comment:

Hello. My name is Adam Grove, and I'm a student studying Intellectual Property at Northwestern Law School. One of the problems that we discuss regularly is the difficulty of knowing if something is in the public domain. The public domain is an essential part of the Constitutional IP bargain between creators and the public. However, it is in danger of becoming a mere token or gesture because it is nearly impossible to know if a work is in the public domain or not.

I would support any number of solutions to this problem. One potential step would be for the Copyright Office to affirmatively certify works into the public domain. This would mitigate the risk for people who wanted to use a work which they believe, but currently have absolutely no way to be certain, is in the public domain and free to use. An extension of this would be for the Copyright Office to actually maintain a website containing all known works in the public domain. Of course, any solution requires funding, and I would support nearly any measure necessary to provide said funding.

Thank you for your time.  
Adam Grove