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

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From: Skip El shei mer
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Comment:

I have an archive of over 14,000 16mm films - mostly educational films, TV commercials and public service announcements from the 1960s and 1970s. These films were made by many different organizations - some of which are difficult, if not impossible to track down due to organizations changing their names or no longer existing.

Of the films that I've determined are public domain, I've been uploading them for free distribution on the Internet Archive - for teachers, researchers and for folks who are nostalgic for that time period. These films are a valuable time capsule of our cultural history from that period. Something that becomes more important as the years pass and something that becomes more rare - since many institutions are throwing away these materials. I've been lucky enough to step in and rescue materials from schools, government institutions and tv stations. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of time and money to maintain such a collection on my own (I don't solicit for grants). I make money by releasing DVDs of public domain material to the public.

Making concessions for Orphan Works would allow me to make more films available to public and would help ensure that these films will be available to future generations.

Thank you for your time and for considering the dilemma of saving "orphaned works".