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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Mike Curtis

Comment:
I am a co-author of the book "Oracle8 & Windows NT Black Book" (1998, Coriolis Group Books, ISBN 1576102483). This is a book about a couple of software technologies that are somewhat dated, but I can think of a number of people who'd benefit from reading the book, even today.

The publisher (Coriolis) went out of business a few years ago; they owned the rights to the book (even though my co-author and I wrote it), and Coriolis has taken those rights to its own grave. It doesn't seem fair to me that this book, and many others, should be abandoned. It's as if the book never existed in the first place - I don't own the rights, and the publisher no longer exists so the words and illustraions in this book will never again see the light of day.

I could go on a general rant about the myriad problems with this country's copyright system, but I thought you'd like to know about an actual example of an orphaned work, and how deprivation of same isn't in anyone's best interest. As an advanced society, we should be expanding available knowledge, not quashing it through the copyright regime.

-Mike Curtis