

Olsen-Alan-20050505120006

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

Date: 05/05/2005

From: Alan Olsen

Comment:

In the 1930s and 40s there were hundreds, if not thousands, of publications and books that were printed on pulp paper. Most of these works are not in print due to scarcity and the next to impossible task of tracking down all of the copyright owners in question. The surviving works are crumbling to dust as we speak. (Pulp paper is horribly unstable due to the high acid content.) No one is willing to take the time to preserve these works in a publishable form under the current state of copyright unless the author is well known and/or the copyright is known. That covers only a small portion of the existing works. If we wait until the copyright has expired, the pulp paper will have long crumbled into dust. By favoring a couple of well known works with added protection, you are condemning large sections of fiction and non-fiction publications to disintegration.