Comment from

John L. Safko, Sr
Consulting Astronomer & Author
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Physics and Astronomy
Associated Faculty, School of the Environment
University of South Carolina

COMMENT — Orphan works

After a reasonable time, copyrighted works that are orphan should be released so that others may use the content and wording, with proper reference, without fear of later claims. Entire reproduction should also be permitted.

If there is concern that a true owner may later be found, that could be resolved by making the period that the work was orphan be not subject to copyright and restoring the copyright.