

ORPHAN WORKS EXCEPTION: USE IT OR LOSE IT

UK Government has stated that in the case of a “no-deal” Brexit this important exception will be removed from UK law.

We need your help urgently to demonstrate to Government the value of this exception

How can I help?

Please register “orphan works” from your collections NOW - the more works that are registered, the stronger the case that the cultural heritage sector need this exception to copyright.

Help prove to Government that taking digital rights from cultural heritage organisations is not a positive step forward.

Why should I be interested?

1. Using the exception NOW means you confirm collection items really are “orphans” and you register their details on the EU-run database of orphan works.
2. You will benefit from the exception as long as it remains valid (hopefully long after March 2019 if we succeed with your help!), meaning you can safely publish the digitisations online for public access without risk.

You’ll be helping to protect cultural heritage organisations’ ability to benefit from an important exception to copyright

Is it hard to use this exception?

NO. It’s easy and importantly free to use this exception. Unlike the UK’s separate orphan works licensing scheme, there are no fees or licence costs for using this exception.

What do I need to do now?

- Go to the [self-assessment tool](#) on Gov.uk to check that you and your “orphan work” collections meet the criteria.
- Conduct and record a diligent search for the copyright owner(s) to prove the material really is “orphan”.
- Start by searching the [EU database](#) to check if the work is already registered. Diligent search guidance is available from the [EnDow project](#), [Copyright User](#), and the [UK Intellectual Property Office](#).
- Go to the [EU database](#) to register details of your work.

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