

Sirs/mesdames:

What is copyright for? Is it to entrench new property rights for the proprietied or to encourage creativity and the expression of and distribution of ideas?

Isn't copyright antithetical to free speech? Free should mean free to copy and echo as well as originate. Who is constantly original?

Copyright should encourage free speech, not stifle it. It is only justifiable when it encourages free speech and creation

Instead of kneeling to big media firms and entrenching provisions which neither benefit creators nor Canadian patrimony, copyright law should be encouraging a welter of free speech.

1. I suggest that copyright terms last no more than 22 years after the death of the author or a maximum of 50 years from creation if the author's death date is unknown. This gives enough time for the author's children or spouse(s), if any, to reach adulthood and support themselves. When copyright expires, then the whole world can benefit from the work and anyone can promulgate it widely, and use it to create new works.

2. The DMCA in the United States not only combats pirates profiting from illegal copies, but also kids and parents from making personal copies. It is illegal in Canada currently to time-shift TV via VCRs or PVRs, or to copy programs to one's iPhone or Android - but who is prosecuted? It is time to end the hypocrisy and legally allow personal recording.

3. Works in digital format are easily reproduced, even if protected by layers of coding and encryption. We should not be encouraging this. We have already lost many old movies and manuscripts which were not preserved because companies went out of business. Should we now lose digital works which can no longer be decrypted? Allow copying for archival and educational purposes. Outlaw profit-making copying.

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