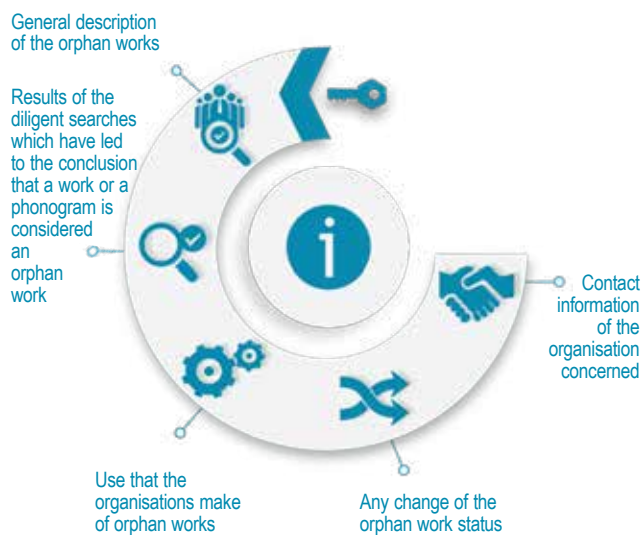


## What information is available in the database



# Orphan Works Database

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## A new database for creative works

Orphan works are all those works such as books, films, newspaper articles and other creative materials that are protected by copyright, but whose right holder cannot be identified or located.

There are millions of orphan works in libraries, museums, public broadcasters' archives and other public institutions in the EU.

The EU Directive 2012/28/EU, which entered into force at the end of 2012, sets out common rules for the digitisation and online display of orphan works which had been first published or broadcast in the EU.

Under the Directive, such works which have been identified as orphans after a diligent search may be used by public institutions. All orphan works must be included in an EU-wide database, the creation of which was entrusted to EUIPO.

## How to use the database?

The Orphan Works Database aims to collect information about orphan works which are part of the collections currently held at national level by public libraries, museums, archives, film and audio heritage institutions and public service broadcasting organisations in EU Member States and EEA countries.

These cultural bodies that hold works must first conduct a diligent search on the right holders of the works.

After having tried to identify the copyright holder without success, each cultural, educational or broadcasting organisation sends information about their orphan works to their national authority.

Each national authority then forwards this information to the Orphan Works Database.

Once identified as orphan in one country, these works are recognised as orphan across the European Union. This means that any cultural organisation having these works in its archives may digitise them and make them available across the EU.

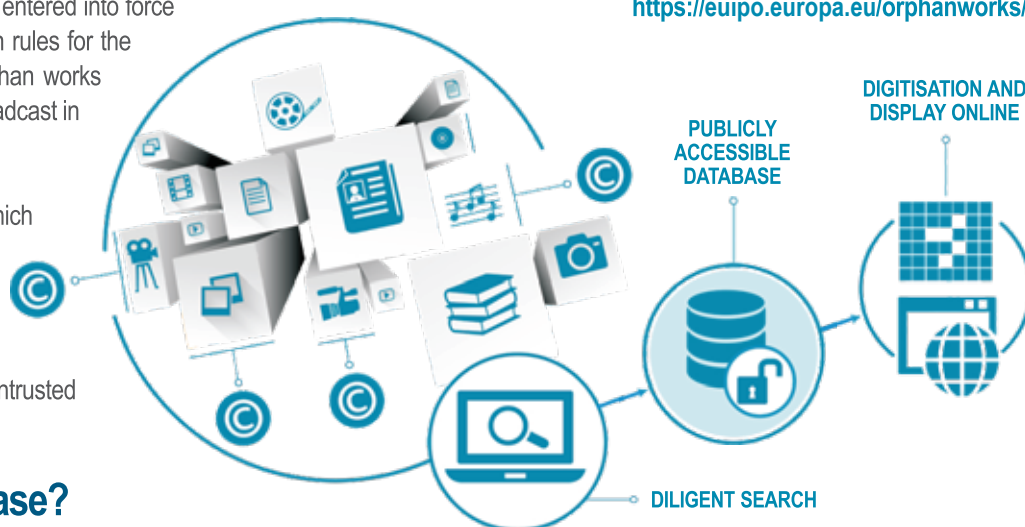
Right holders who recognise one of their works in the database may request to change the status of an orphan work in question.

The general public can search the database and find information about orphan works.

Thus, the database provides a single harmonized point of access to information on orphan works both to the cultural organisations, the possible right holders and to the general public.

The Orphan Works Database can be accessed from the web site:

<https://euiipo.europa.eu/orphanworks/>



If you want to use the Orphan Works Database and you need help or further information, please contact us:

[observatory.orphanworks@euiipo.europa.eu](mailto:observatory.orphanworks@euiipo.europa.eu)

## Who benefits from the database?

Cultural institutions are able to record information about orphan works in single online database.

The database provides free access to information about orphan works across the 28 Member States and EEE countries.

Right holders are able to check if their work is being used and put an end to orphan work status.

