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Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #4 (Public Domain Film on DVD): Audiovisual works that are in the public domain in the United States and that are released solely on DVDs, access to which is prevented by technological protection measures.

Summary:

Disc name: Great Works of Film Vol. 1, as well as a DVD of my own wedding

I wanted to select some scenes from the Lumiere Bros. Victorian-era film "From the Earth to the Moon" to show to my class, but I found that there was no way to access the footage directly.

Also, someone gave me a DVD of my wedding video that they had made, and I found there was no way for me to re-edit it for my Aunt, who wanted just a snippet. The original DV source of the DVD was erased by the friend who made the DVD, so now I am stuck with just the DVD, encoded complete with the encryption. I've found you can't make a DVD that is not protected in this way.

I can't edit movies from the 19th century or my own blessed Wedding Video!

By default, a DVD is encrypted. Even if you produced the DVD yourself, once it has been produced, you are stuck with the edit exactly as you see it.

You can't easily duplicate it, and you certainly can't re-edit it. It would be as if Microsoft Word locked an essay you had written once you had printed it once. Sure, you could manually recreate the essay, but you could never again change that particular version. You could never shorten it, lengthen it, correct any errors or do anything at all with it, really.

I had contemplated using iMovie to make some movies of my own out of clips from classic movies in the public domain, but that project has basically been put on hold. I could do the project using the more laborious method of editing videotape, or even film directly, but the time investment is a serious enough impediment to prevent me from getting involved. Jasper Johns could cut pictures out of magazines to make his collages, but a collage artist these days would have to jump through a lot of arbitrary hoops to do the same thing with film. I doubt my film collage would have been very good, but frankly, with the DMCA in place, we'll never really know.