

# USA PATRIOT ACT

## Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism

After the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, the American government took actions designed to ensure the domestic security of the nation. Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act on October 26, 2001, which expanded the powers of the FBI to conduct wiretapping and surveillance. While most Americans support the efforts to combat terrorism, many Americans have raised concerns about the potential to infringe on the civil liberties of citizens.

The following sources give you information about this legislation and how it may affect you and your library usage

### Text of the USA PATRIOT Act

The text of the law is available online at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>. This is THOMAS, the web site of the Library of Congress. Click on *Public Laws*, then click on *107th Congress*, then click on *107-51 – 107-100*, then click on the number 56 for the complete text.

You can also click: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:HR03162:|TOM:/bss/d107query.html>

### Online Resources

Articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers are available from the following online databases provided by the Orange County Library System at [www.ocls.info](http://www.ocls.info) in the [Virtual Library](#) under the heading of [Online Databases](#):

- [CountryWatch](#)
- [InfoTrac OneFile](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#)
- [Orlando Sentinel](#)
- [Sirs Knowledge Source](#)

Possible search terms: "Patriot Act", "Patriot Act and Libraries."

- [Biography Resource Center](#): A comprehensive biographical database providing brief and full-text information of people from ancient times to the present. Enter a name using any combination of first, middle, and/or last name, or the start of last name only.

*Please note that a valid Orange County Library System library card and PIN number are required in order to access these databases from a location outside of a library location.*

## Print Resources

- R303.625 Ter [Terrorism primary sources](#)
- 345.7302 Pat [The Patriot Act: opposing viewpoints](#)
- 363.32 Bov [Terrorism and tyranny: trampling freedom, justice, and peace to rid the world of evil](#) by James Bovard
- 973.931 Bri [After: how American confronted the September 12 era](#) by Steven Brill
- 973.931 Ter [Terrorist attack on America](#)
- 973.931 War [War on terrorism](#)
- 973.931 Nat [The 9/11 Commission report : final report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.](#)
- 973.931 Doe [Does the world hate the United States?](#)

To find more titles, search the Library Catalog using subjects: "National Security United States" "Patriot Act," "September 11 Terrorist Attacks 2001," "Terrorism," "Terrorism -- Government policy -- United States." or "War on Terrorism."

## Analysis and Opinions

Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act contains controversial language which gives the FBI the authority to obtain library and bookstore records. The following organizations provide differing opinions and analysis on this aspect of the USA PATRIOT Act.

U.S. Dept. of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001  
202-353-1555  
[www.lifeandliberty.gov](http://www.lifeandliberty.gov)

American Library Association  
50 E. Huron  
Chicago, IL 60611  
1-800-545-2433  
[www.ala.org/](http://www.ala.org/)  
Click on Issues and Advocacy.

EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center)  
1718 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-483-1140  
[www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/usapatriot](http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/usapatriot)

American Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
212-549-2585  
[www.aclu.org/](http://www.aclu.org/)

Law Library Resource Xchange  
[www.llrx.com/features/libraryrecords.htm](http://www.llrx.com/features/libraryrecords.htm) Free web journal for legal and library professionals.

American Enterprise Institute  
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202-862-7173  
[www.aei.org](http://www.aei.org)

The Orange County Library System is dedicated to providing the greatest consideration for the individual's privacy of the records of our patrons. We maintain our various technologies in a manner that supports that goal. We do not maintain records of circulation or computer use any longer than necessary for operational purposes.