

What else is in the Act?

The Act is lengthy and has changed over 15 sections of the US Code. Besides libraries, there have been changes to the laws that govern banking, immigration, communication, business (including bookstores), as well as new penalties for terrorism. Some of these changes may affect you, and others may not. The full text of the Act, along with detailed summaries and brief overviews, are available on the Internet. Ask your librarian for assistance, or go to http://www.cal-webs.org/if_patriot1.html for links to this information.

Will the Act expire?

Parts of the Act, including Section 215 that impacts library privacy, had "sunset" provisions that were set to expire on 31 December 2005. Along with one other section, Section 215 was reauthorized through 31 December 2009 and will expire at that time unless the Congress votes to extend them. The rest of the Act, including Section 505, is permanent and would have to be repealed by the Congress.

What are the penalties for defying the USA PATRIOT Act?

If a librarian does not comply with an FBI search warrant issued under Section 215, he or she may be charged with contempt of court, although no specific penalty is spelled out. However, a prison term of up to five years may be imposed if a "gag order" related to a Section 505 investigation is violated.



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What You Should Know About The USA PATRIOT Act

