



The USA PATRIOT Act: Implications for Librarians, Archivists and All Americans

“... the government can walk into their libraries, without probable cause, without any particular information that someone was associated with terrorism, and monitor their reading habits” - Representative Bernie Sanders of Vermont in *The New York Times*, July 9, 2004

Since the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, many of us have been concerned about its consequences on the archives and libraries in which we work, as well as the consequences to each of us personally. For those of you who attended SAA, there was an excellent opportunity to learn more about this legislation from James Neal, who spoke at a session entitled, “The Impact of the USA PATRIOT Act on Archives and Archivists.” Mr. Neal’s specific topic was “Security and Freedom: Issues Facing Archivists”. The issue seems to only grow in its urgency. We are pleased to announce that for our September program, Mr. Neal will reprise his SAA presentation. He will be joined by Jameel Jaffer, a litigator for the ACLU’s National Legal Department, who will address legal issues surrounding the Patriot Act.

James Neal is currently Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, providing leadership for university academic computing and network services and a system of twenty-three libraries. He also works with the Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia (EPIC), the Center for Research in Information Access (CRIA), the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL), and serves on key academic, technology and budget policy and planning groups. Previously, he served as Dean of University Libraries at Indiana University and Johns Hopkins University, and held administrative positions in the libraries at Penn State, Notre Dame, and the City University of New York.

Jameel Jaffer is a litigator for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)’s National Legal Department and has served as counsel in several of the most significant cases involving the Patriot Act. He is currently lead counsel in a constitutional challenge to Section 505 of the Act, the National Security Letter provision. Mr. Jaffer is also counsel to a coalition of civil rights, religious, and immigration organizations in a challenge to Section 215 of the Act. Since 2002, Mr. Jaffer has represented a coalition of public interest organizations in Freedom of Information Act litigation for records concerning the government’s implementation of the Patriot Act. A large part of the information that the public now has about FBI surveillance under the Patriot Act has been made public through this litigation. Please visit the website of the ACLU to learn more about their work: www.aclu.org

- Co-Sponsored by:** Columbia University Libraries
- Date:** Monday September 27, 2004
- Place:** Columbia University’s **Butler** Library, 535 West 114th St; **5th floor, Room 523**
- Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm Program begins promptly at 6pm – Room 523
7:30 - 8:00 pm Refreshments and access to exhibit celebrating 250 years of Columbia history; upstairs on 6th floor in Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- Directions:** The Butler library is on the campus of Columbia University, and is to the right when you enter from 116th and Broadway (Low Library is to the left); detailed directions can be found at: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rare/walk.html>
By subway: Take the 1 or 9 train to 116th Street
- Fee:** \$4 Members \$6 Non-members
- RSVP:** To Julie Ludwig by Friday, September 17th: ludwig@frick.org , or (212) 547-0692. Please be reasonably sure that you can attend before responding.

If you are a person with a disability and need reasonable accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact Susan Woodland at 917 606-8259 at least 7 days in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Thank you.