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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law Library, "Law Library Briefs" (2003). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 14.

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Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No.7, August, 2003

The Patriot Act and You

A basic tenet of the library community is to respect the privacy of library patrons. Your library records indicating items previously or currently checked out or requested via interlibrary loan are confidential and are not generally accessible to persons other than the library staff. Provisions of the USA Patriot Act §215 could affect access to your library records by non-library personnel.

USA Patriot Act §215 amended §501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (F.I.S.A.). It authorizes judges of the F.I.S.A. court to grant the F.B.I. access to **any tangible things** (books, records, papers, documents, and other items) in order to gather foreign intelligence information or to conduct an investigation to protect against international terrorism. This could include your library patron records

or information on computer use. PCs in the law library do not have any user tracking software installed on them and are programmed to reset daily to their original configuration. In addition, §501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act prohibits persons from disclosing to other persons that the F.B.I. has sought or obtained any of the tangible items allowed under the section. For further information about the USA Patriot Act and libraries, check out the "Issues & Advocacy" section of the website of the American Library Association at <http://www.ala.org>.



Library News

Welcome Jennifer Raynor!

Joining the law library staff as the new Acquisitions Librarian is Jennifer P. Raynor. Jennifer previously held positions in technical services and reference at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She earned her Masters of Library Information degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Michigan. In addition to her duties as Acquisitions Librarian, Jennifer will be assisting at the Reference Desk.

Law Library Career Collection

During the summer, several directories shelved in the Career Collection were relocated to the Reference Collection. Books in the Career Collection cover topics in career exploration and job searching. Items in the Career Collection can now be checked out of the law library. Directories on lawyers, law firms, judges, and graduate law programs are located in Reference and are for use in the law library only.

New Website Design

The university and the law school recently unveiled redesigned websites. You can access the law library's home page from the law school's home page at <http://law.rwu.edu> or by going directly to <http://law.rwu.edu/Law+Library>. From there, click on the buttons located on the left side of the web page to access the *Library Guide*, library webcatalog, *Research Guides*, library newsletters, and the *Acquisitions Lists* of titles recently cataloged in the collection. The library newsletters, *Research Guides*, and *Acquisitions Lists* are available in .pdf format for printing.



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Welcome!

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The Law Library welcomes new and returning students. We wish you success in all your endeavors during the 2003/04 academic year. Please do not hesitate to ask any of the library staff for assistance.
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Some Recent Acquisitions

Beginning with this issue, a regular column of *Law Library Briefs* will feature titles which have recently been added to the library's collection. In this issue, the law library Collection Services staff brings to your attention the following new books.

For those of you desiring to enhance your legal writing and public speaking skills, take a look at the following titles: *The Dictionary of Concise Writing: 10,000 Alternatives to Wordy Phrases* (Reference, PE1464 .F57 2002); *The Dimwit's Dictionary: 5,000 Over-used Words and Phrases and Alternatives to Them* (Reference, PE1591 .F57 2002); and *Legally Speaking: 40 Powerful Presentation Principles Lawyers Need to Know* (Reference, KF8915 .T36 2002).

For the serious Internet denizen, *Web of Deception: Misinformation on the Internet* (Reference, ZA4201 .W43 2002) offers tips for recognizing and avoiding misleading and deceptive information on the web and how to go about obtaining redress when you have been the victim of Internet fraud.

For insight into the inner workings of the U.S. Supreme Court and the deliberations of the justices on various legal issues, check out the book authored by Justice Sandra Day O' Connor entitled *The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice* (KF8742 .O26 2003).



Barb's Computer Advice

There is an anti-virus software program on each PC to protect your disk from getting "sick." Security software is on every PC to protect its current configuration. This means that you cannot save your document to the PC's hard drive. Barb encourages you to always save your document to a floppy or zip disk or to a CD-ROM. Returning students may notice that Training Labs 1 and 2 have new Dell PCs. Each new PC in the Training Labs and in the Main Computer Lab has a CD read-write program. Each new Dell PC also has a DVD/CD-ROM drive.

Barbara (Barb) Pahlow, Public Services Assistant, is available to assist you with computer and printing problems. Barb can be contacted in the Library, at 401-254-4536 or by email at bpahlow@law.rwu.edu.



Spotlight on Library Student Workers

Since opening its doors in August, 1993 to the inaugural class, the law library has employed law school students to work in the library and in the computer labs. Indeed, our student workers are essential to keep the library open late nights and weekends and are important members of the library staff.

Student library assistants working at the Circulation Desk perform a variety of tasks. They check out and check in library materials, answer the Circulation Desk and Reference

Desk telephones, provide directions, file looseleaf materials, shelve books, and take care of problems with the photocopiers. Thelma Dzialo hires, trains, and supervises student library assistants. Richard Segel shares responsibility with Thelma in hiring, training, and supervising the student library assistants.

Students working in the computer labs are available to answer basic questions about the wordprocessing programs, email, electronic databases, and the Internet. They can assist you with printing problems as well. Barb Pahlow hires, trains, and supervises the Computer Lab Monitors.

Look for profiles of former and current student workers in upcoming issues of *Law Library Briefs*!



Library Tours for First-Year Students

Librarians will conduct tours for first-year students from August 22 to August 29, 2003. Each tour will last approximately a half hour. A memo indicating the date and time of the scheduled tour will be placed in student mailboxes.

Upon completion of the tour, students will receive a copy of the *Library Guide* and *Selected Bibliography for Legal Research and Writing* (TimeSaver No. 4).

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