

**CALEA and libraries**

The *Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act* (CALEA), passed in October 1994, forces telecommunications carriers to comply with law enforcement's wiretapping requests. When the act was passed, Congress drew a distinction between telecommunications services (telephony, fax, and the like) and "information services" in order to balance privacy and regulatory interests. Consequently, CALEA applies only to telecommunication services; it explicitly exempts information services such as Internet services. But the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is attempting to extend CALEA wiretaps to broadband networks. This change could force providers of broadband access, including some public and academic libraries and library networks, to re-engineer their networks at their own expense.

CALEA draws a line between the public, circuit-switched telecommunications network and private telephone networks. While the public network is subject to CALEA, private networks (such as a university's private PBX system) are not. Both of these bright lines, developed by Congress and supported by legislators, FCC, and the executive branch, have provided a policy framework for law enforcement's interaction with telecommunications for nearly a decade.

The development of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services—essentially, telephone service running over the Internet—has made these separations harder to maintain. Law enforcement agencies petitioned the FCC in 2004 to provide the same kind of CALEA access to VOIP and other broadband packet-switching services, citing national security concerns. ALA, along with a coalition of library and higher education organizations, responded to the petition by encouraging the commission to more carefully analyze the

implications of such a move and consider the potential impact on libraries.

In September 2004, the commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) outlining how CALEA could be extended to include Internet service providers. Although NPRM exempts libraries and education organizations—citing their role as providers of broadband access—ALA feels that the NPRM doesn't explicitly exempt the private networks of which many libraries are part.

In November, ALA, along with ACRL and ARL, filed comments before the FCC seeking exemption from CALEA for libraries. Additionally, ALA and ACRL are part of a petition before the court arguing that FCC does not have jurisdiction to extend CALEA to the Internet.

While there is currently no legislation pending on the issue of CALEA, it may move into the Congressional arena in the coming months. Please continue to be aware of this issue by subscribing to ALAWON, the Washington Office's free e-mail newsletter. You can subscribe at [www.ala.org/washoff/alawon](http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon).

**Sunshine Week 2006: Are we safer in the dark?**

Hurricane Katrina made clear the important role of government in protecting the American public. Sadly, the federal government has expanded secrecy and limited the public's ability to know what government is doing. What about your community? Is the government at all levels telling the public enough to ensure the safety of our families and our communities?

Join us March 13, 2006, in Washington, D.C. (linked via satellite to locally hosted discussions across the country), as a national panel of experts from around the country discuss open government and secrecy—the problems we are facing with it, how it impacts communities, and what the public can do about it.

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### Video about film care

Video Aids to Film Preservation (VAFP) is a new Web site designed to complement printed motion picture film preservation guides. It contains short video clips that illustrate basic principles of film handling and treatment. As of this writing, the clips include “What does mildew damage look like?” “What does a film with shrinkage look like?” “What to do if the film on a reel is loose?” “How do you identify film gauge from the reel it is on?” “How do you identify film by its container, size and shape, and sprocket holes?” “How do I identify optical or magnetic sound tracks?” “How do you make a cement splice in regular 8mm?” “How do you inspect a cement splice?” and “How do you make a splice using a simple splicing block and press tape?”

There are also three short films made by professional film laboratories to illustrate procedures they have used in film restoration. Contributors include Littlefilm.org, Cineric, Film Technology Company, and Colorlab. The clips and films may be streamed in MPEG-4 and either Real-Surestream or Real-Broadband, and downloaded in MPEG-4 files. They are governed by the rules of Creative Commons, so may be used with appropriate attribution.

The URL for VAFP is [www.folkstreams.net/vafp](http://www.folkstreams.net/vafp).

### Magnetic and optical media repair

The Canadian Conservation Institute has published “Remedies for deteriorated or damaged modern information carriers” by Joe Iraci as number 27 in its Technical Bulletin series. This 23-page booklet reviews the types of deterioration sustained by magnetic and optical media as they age or encounter poor handling and storage conditions. It goes on to present remedies for that deterioration to en-

able playback of audio, video and computer tapes and discs, plus CDs and DVDs.

This booklet costs \$15 US and may be purchased through the CCI online bookstore at <https://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/bookstore/index-e.cfm> or their Publications Sales Office at (613) 998-3721, ext. 250. ISBN: 0-660-19527-5.

### Labeling hazardous chemicals

The September 2005 issue of AIC news (v.30: no.5) contains a special insert, “A conservator’s guide to labeling hazardous chemicals” by Judith Bischoff. This article offers an overview of the OSHA regulation and other laws that pertain to safe labeling of the chemicals typically found in conservation laboratories, and the importance of using labels that conform to the law.

The regulation doesn’t specify type of label, so the article describes two rating systems, the National Fire Protection Association National Fire Rating and the National Paint and Coatings Association Hazardous Materials Identification System. Lastly, it recommends an inventory of all chemicals in the lab, acquisition of the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets, application of the necessary labels to all chemical containers, and explanation of the label system to staff members. The article also contains a table of the health, flammability and instability (reactivity) codes for common conservation chemicals; a list of acronyms; a glossary; and a list of Web sites. ¶¶

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(“Washington Hotline” continued from page 33)

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For more information visit [www.sunshineweek.org/](http://www.sunshineweek.org/). ¶¶

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