

## **Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) Survey [Summary of Responses]**

PACER is an electronic service run by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts on a cost-recovery basis. The service provides access to case and docket information from Federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts, and the U.S. Party/Case Index, which is a national locator for cases filed in federal courts. Free public access is currently provided in Federal courthouses and by waiving the first \$10 of annual costs for each registered user. In addition, attorneys of record and parties in a case (including pro se litigants) receive one free electronic copy of all documents filed electronically, if receipt is required by law or directed by the filer. And, courts may, upon a showing of cause, exempt indigents, bankruptcy case trustees, individual researchers associated with educational institutions, courts, section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations and pro bono ADR neutrals from payment of these fees.

GPO has requested that the Administrative Office provide no-fee public access through Federal depository libraries. However, GPO's desire to obtain depository library access must be reconciled with the legal authority given to the Judicial Conference of the United States, the judicial governing body of the U.S. Federal Courts, by Congress to impose user fees for electronic access to case information made available through PACER.

To prepare for further discussions with the Administrative Office, GPO is currently evaluating survey information from depository libraries on recent and projected usage of PACER, but please note that as of this time, the Administrative Office is unable to provide no-fee Federal depository access to PACER.

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### **Total responses: 263**

Academic, General	123
Academic, Law	49
Academic Community College	14
Federal Agency	4
Federal Court	1
Public	43
State Court	11
State Library	18

1. Is your library currently using PACER?

Yes	52
No	211

2. If your library is currently using PACER:

(a) What were the calendar year 2005 expenditures for PACER?

\$100 or less	30
\$101-\$500	10
\$501-\$1000	4
\$1,001-\$1,500	1
\$2,500-\$3,000	1
Approximately \$14,000	1

(b) What was the estimated number of individual users of PACER in 2005?

1-10 users	26
11-20 users	10
More than 20 users	7

3. If your library is not currently using PACER, what are the reasons?

(a) Was the PACER fee a factor in your decision not to provide the service?

Yes	117
No	94

(b) Does your library use other service(s) instead?

Yes	142
No	136

4. Would you select PACER if it became available through the FDLP?

Yes	218
No	45

5. What case materials do you believe would be of most interest to your library users?

Docket Sheet	32
Opinions	126
Pleadings	41
Reports	24

6. How much usage do you think PACER would receive at your library if PACER became available through the FDLP?

Minimal (1-10 users a month)	185
Moderate (11-20 users a month)	57
Frequent (more than 20 users a month)	21