



# Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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## Article of the Month

- PACER Pilot Project, Carol Yecies

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### PACER Pilot Project

Carol Yecies,  
Associate Law Library Director, Information Services and Administration

The Law Library & Technology Center is pleased to announce that we have been selected to be part of the FDLP/PACER Pilot Project. “The goal of the pilot project is to determine if Federal depository library no-fee access to PACER expands usage to those who currently do not have it available to them or would be inhibited by going to a court house to use the service.”<sup>1</sup> While the aim of the pilot project is to promote the use of PACER to general public, this is also an excellent opportunity for all of us in this building to become more familiar with this service from the Federal Government.

“Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) is an electronic public access service that allows users to obtain case and docket information from Federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts, and the U.S. Party/Case Index via the Internet. [Links](#) to all courts are provided from this web site. Electronic access is available by [registering](#) with the PACER Service Center, the judiciary's centralized registration, billing, and technical support center.

Each court maintains its own databases with case information. Because PACER database systems are maintained within each court, each jurisdiction will have a different URL. Accessing and querying information from each service is comparable; however, the format and content of information provided may differ slightly.

PACER is a service of the United States Judiciary. The PACER Service Center is run by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.”<sup>2</sup>

Available information on PACER includes:

- A listing of all parties and participants including judges, attorneys, and trustees;

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Cynthia Etkin, Sr. Program Planning Specialist, Office of the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office to Mary Paige Smith, Associate Director for Technical Services, Shepard Broad LL&TC, dated 10/28/2007.

<sup>2</sup> <http://pacер.psc.uscourts.gov/pacerdesc.html> accessed 11/13, 2007.

- A compilation of case related information such as cause of action, nature of suit, and dollar demand;
- A chronology of dates of case events entered in the case record;
- A claims registry;
- A listing of new cases each day;
- Appellate court opinions;
- Judgments or case status;
- Types of documents filed for certain cases;
- Imaged copies of documents.<sup>3</sup>

PACER differs from traditional computer assisted legal research tools such as Westlaw, Lexis, VersusLaw and Loislaw. PACER provides access to the docket information of cases currently pending in federal court.

Under our agreement with the Government Printing Office and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, we may not give out our password and login; these are to be used only by the Reference Librarians, who will log users into PACER, as a reference service. But we will be happy to help you with any searches of this information that you may want.

Normally, there is a fee connected with using PACER, but for purposes of this Pilot Study, fees are being waived. Meg Kribble is our current in-house PACER expert, but the rest of the Reference Librarians plan to give her strong competition while we are involved in this pilot project! Please stop by the Reference Desk and check out this service.

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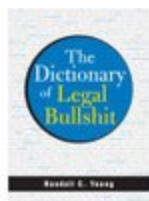
## Book of the Month:

### **New Acquisition: THE DICTIONARY OF LEGAL BULLSHIT**

**by Randall C. Young**

K184 .Y68 2007

Review by Meg Kribble, Emerging Technologies, Reference, & Instructional Services Librarian.



I laughed out loud when I saw The Dictionary of Legal Bullshit on the cart of new acquisitions in our administrative offices. Yes, it really exists, and it is available for check out to patrons of the Law Library & Technology Center. Attorney and writer Randall C. Young has compiled a fun collection of plain English explanations of famous cases, legal Latin, and other high falutin' terminology used by members of the legal profession. Here are a few of my favorites:

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<sup>3</sup> Id.

headnote: A statement in which Thomson West Publishing Company's editors explain a one-hundred-page decision in one hundred words.

hornbook: A non-prescription sleep aid.

jurisprudence: Something that exists only so long as we have prudent jurists.

obiter dictum: Desultory passages of judicial decisions in which judges reveal their opinion of themselves.

quash: The coolest word in the legal lexicon. Half the subpoenas issued have been challenged just to give the lawyer an excuse to say "quash."

stare decisis: Latin for "being a United States Supreme Court justice means never having to say you're sorry."

wise guy: One who is a participant in organized crime. The term "mafioso" fell out of favor as progressive criminal enterprises embraced the virtues of ethnic diversity.

At the end of the book, Young has written "an abridged taxonomy of lawyers" including the think-they-know-it-alls, the crusaders, and the rednecks in white collars; a short list of songs featuring lawyers; and a directory of pre-eminent law firms. Somehow, Car Talk counsel Dewey, Cheetham & Howe was left out of the latter!

This month's suggestion courtesy of Meg Kribble, Emerging Technologies, Reference, & Instructional Services Librarian.

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## URL/Website of the Month: <http://blawgsearch.justia.com/>

According to Justia's website (<http://company.justia.com/>), the company's mission is "To make legal information and resources free and easy to find."

With BlawgSearch.com, you can search thousands of legal blogs that are updated daily. The site includes a directory of blawgs broken out by practice area, law school, and locality.

This month's suggestion courtesy of Rob Hudson, Head of Public Services.

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## Tech Tip of the Month:

### **Outlook 2007 Tip on Managing Email Storage Space**

Have you ever gotten the message along the lines "you have exceeded your email storage space" when you attempt to send email messages in Microsoft Office Outlook? Don't freak-out because help is near. Outlook's Mailbox Cleanup to the rescue!

## Using Mailbox Cleanup

On the **Tools** menu, click **Mailbox Cleanup**.

You can do any of the following from this one location:

View the size of your mailbox

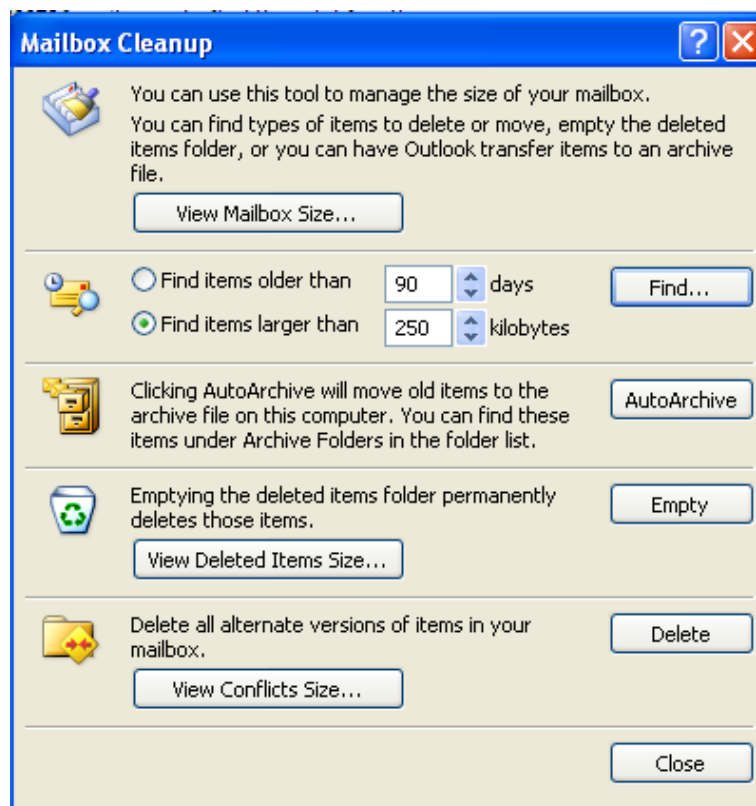
Find items older than a certain date

Find items that are larger than a certain size

View the size of your **Deleted Items** folder

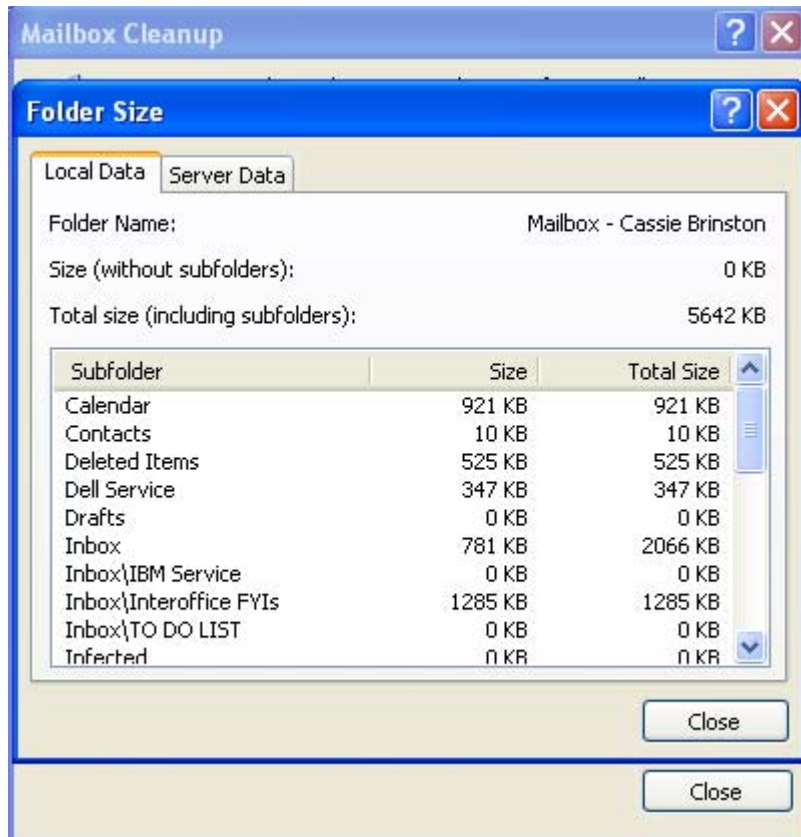
Empty your Deleted Items folder

(<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook/CH100622121033.aspx>)

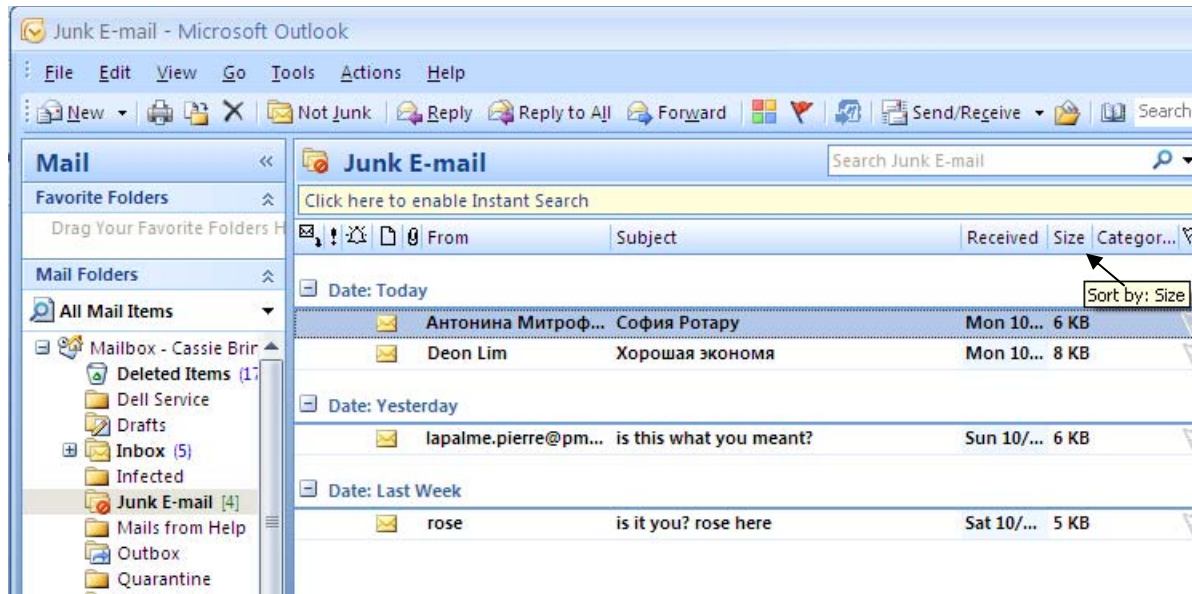


For example, to check the size of folders in your email account, do the following:

1. Click on "View Mailbox Size" and you should see the following screen



2. Scroll down the list to see which folders had size totals in the Mega Byte (MB) range because this size indicates that large emails are resident.
3. After identifying folders with large emails, write down the names of folders of interest then close the Mailbox Cleanup dialog box.
4. View the contents of the folders you wrote down during step 3 and delete or move large emails to your personal folder section. You can sort emails by size either ascending or descending by clicking on "Size," which is located on the tool bar just above the email listings in outlook.



1. Empty the Deleted Items folder to remove the large emails from your email account.
2. Send a test email to verify if your cleanup efforts were successful.
3. If you still cannot send emails, check to see if you missed any large emails or check with your network administrator.

For more information about managing our Outlook email account, please see <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook/CH100622121033.aspx>.

This month's suggestion courtesy of Cassie Brinston, Computer Support Specialist.

## Faculty & Staff Publications:

**Bob Jarvis:** *The Curious Legal Career of Homer L. Collyer*, 38 JOURNAL OF MARITIME LAW AND COMMERCE 571 (2007).

**Joel Mintz:** Update to STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY (Thompson/West Group) recently published.

Material from a book chapter on civil enforcement of environmental laws included in THE PRACTICE AND POLICY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW by Ruhl, Nagle and Salzman (Foundation Press 2007).

### Forthcoming Works

**Pearl Goldman:** *Legal Education and Technology II: An Annotated Bibliography*, LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL (Spring or Summer 2008).

