

Commercial Public Records
SLA Annual Conference NY 2003

Vendor	Price	Flat Rate?	Type of service	Useability	Reporter use	Features
LexisNexis – SmartLinx http://nexis.com	Flat rate	Yes	Multi-purpose people finder & business information	Clunky; seems more reliable than Autotrack & Accurint	1 (who had to be trained before ID issued)	↑ Sources given with each record; Visual display option shows relationships; Updated regularly. Advantage over People Finder – information linked in one place; duplicate records eliminated. ↓ Neighbor information is not as complete as Autotrack.
LexisNexis People Finder http://nexis.com	Flat rate	Yes	Multi-purpose people finder, business & business information	Fairly easy for reporters	All	Fast phone numbers; property records; spouses' names.
Autotrack (Choicepoint) http://atxp.dbt-online.com/	\$5 per search/ \$10 basic to \$17 comprehensive w/ associates	No	Multi-purpose people finder, business & legal information	Easy – reporters love it	6	↑ Records stay up for 7 days so you can look at them again without a new charge. Phone numbers seem more accurate. ↓ Expensive.
Accurint (Seisint) www.accurint.com	\$0.25 per search/ \$0.25 basic report; most \$2.25	No	Multi-purpose people finder, business & legal information.	Fairly easy – need to look a little	6	↑ Very reasonable price. Full birthdates. Records date back many years. ↓ Records do not stay in the system once you log off.
Pacer (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) http://pacer.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/links.pl	\$0.07 per page (54 lines)	No	Federal court dockets and electronic documents from the government; Courts are moving to electronic filing.	Began as a dialup – now on the web and easier all the time	None	First stop for Federal Court dockets & electronically filed documents ↑ Inexpensive. No charge to search. Charges for printing cap at 30 pages. ↓ Records filed by first word in the name. May need to do free text search in LexisNexis to find a case number. Also not clear to use last name form for company searches.
CourtExpress www.courtexpress.com	\$8 per search; Case charges \$49 to \$149 per case for all of the federal courts. Add'l copy & delivery fees.	Yes	Court records & document delivery of any public record nationally.	Easy – reporters loved it before restricted.	None	As well as some live court connections, they download federal case records from Pacer into their database. ↑ If Pacer is down, older records are still available. More state courts added all the time. Customer Service and document delivery is great. Agents know the courthouses and know how to ask for the records for any court in the country. ↓ Expensive.

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Courtlink (Lexis-Nexis) www.courtlink.com	\$5 –\$8 per search Federal courts; \$5-\$50 state courts; Online 15 cents @pg.	Yes	Federal and state Court records.	Not as intuitive as CourtExpress	None	↑ Has elusive courts that Maryland JIS system does not have, such as Prince George’s County. Ability to track cases.
Superior Information Services (they sell to Nexis.com and others) www.soplus.com	\$15.00 basic court search for available states as many as 250 abstracts included.	No	Primary data source for Civil Court records for MidAtlantic states. NY NJ PA DE MD DC NC VA.	Relatively easy to use. Has advanced search.	None	↑ Currency and back archive. Have just added criminal data for some states.
Judicial Information System – JIS Maryland Courts (Dialup only -- 410-260-1114)	\$50 per year	Yes	Primary Maryland court records	Difficult to use	Yes	Only place to get most Maryland local court records – criminal, civil, traffic, warrants; land; sometimes need to do free text search on Nexis to check for civil case number.

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