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Online Legal Information System: A Proposed Model for Indian Environment

ABSTRACT

Information play a significant role on all walks of life and lawyers are no exemption, the concept of legal information and aspects of information technology have received wide attention from legal fraternity. A lawyer's success is more depends on the latest information about his/ her case and more relevant case law. Lawyer has to keep in touch with the latest happenings in the relevant field but computerization of legal information has changed the management of case laws and information seeking habits of the legal community. In the process of solving problem, the lawyers are ignorant of the detailed applicable rules; these rules have to be dug out in some way according to legal method. Interpretation of statutory provision may yield one or more rules and one rule is typically based on more than one legal source and lawyers have therefore to identify the relevant legal sources which interpreted yield the applicable rules. Lawyers cannot cope up with the sequentially reading all possible text and a need arises to make head notes of case laws.

One of the problems shared by designers of early and present case law retrieval texts for existing information retrieval was seeming unsuitability of case law texts for existing information retrieval techniques. As such, there is no such open access online legal information system in India, but some commercial legal information databases are available but they are very expensive and incomplete. Thus, an urgent need has been felt to design and develop an Online Legal Information System to cater the legal information to the legal community in India. The main objective of the present study is to design a comprehensive Online Legal Information System for legal community in India. Furthermore, it will undertake the most appropriate long-term sustainable legal information system for a developing country like India with related issues and all possible alternatives. Thus, the study will prove as an effective and efficient way to fill the gaps in hassle free access to Online Legal Information to all the legal community in India.