

LVI 2023

Law via the Internet Conference 2023

Mon 6 –Wed November 8, 2023
OCG, Wollzeile 1, 1010 Wien
<https://iris-conferences.eu/lvi2023>

General Topic: Challenges and opportunities for free access to law, including those posed by generative AI/large language models

IN CO-OPERATION WITH



OVER 30 TALKS WITH THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS:

Graham Greenleaf, Philip Chung and Andrew Mowbray:
Policies to ensure that AI benefits free access to law

Gabor Rescki, Andi Rauber:
Generative AI & IR: What can AI do for Advanced Legal Research?

Panels

CHAIRS:

Erich Schweighofer (Uni Wien/WZRI), Stefan Eder (Benn-Ibler/CYBLY/LawTech), Felix Schmutzner (Uni Wien/WZRI)

PROGRAM

Monday evening: Get2gether, OCG, Wollzeile 1

Tuesday evening: Conference Dinner – 12 Apostel-Keller

ReMeP: Law as code – Text to logical code

LVI2023: A comparison of the different ways to Free Legal Information

Lokal Organisation: Uni Wien / OCG / ReMeP Team
Proceedings will be published later with Cybly Publishers

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Organisation

LVI2023 – Law via the Internet 2023

Free Access to Law Movement:

falm.info

Secretary

Francis Barragan, President and CEO, Canadian Legal Information Institute

Members

falm.info/secretariat

Declaration on Free Access to Law

falm.info/declaration

Members of the FALM

falm.info/members/current

Co-organing Institutions:

ARI/RI@ Arbeitsgruppe Rechtsinformatik, Juridicum, Universität Wien/
rechtsinformatik.ACADEMY des Wiener Zentrums für Rechtsinformatik

Free Access to Law Movement

OCG Österreichische Computer Gesellschaft, Arbeitskreis Rechtsinformatik

Cybly GmbH & Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte

Programme Chairs & Local Chairs:

Schweighofer Erich, Eder Stefan, Schmutzner Felix

Coordination & website:

Rasser Raymond, Wörle Philipp

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Publication:

Schweighofer Erich, Eder Stefan, Schmautzer Felix

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Condensed information for foreign citizens can be found at Oesterreich.gv.at



<https://www.ocg.at/en/austrian-computer-society>

Austrian Computer Society

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The OCG acts as a networking forum, it is a competent and reliable partner for event organisation and that way promotes the relationship between science and business. Moreover, it offers standardised, independent and high-quality IT education and training thus building an important bridge to the working world.

Mission Statement

The OCG makes the benefits of information and communication accessible for all and that way contributes to a positive development of our society.



ReMeP

Research Meets Practice

Live & Virtual Conference

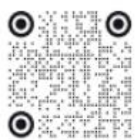
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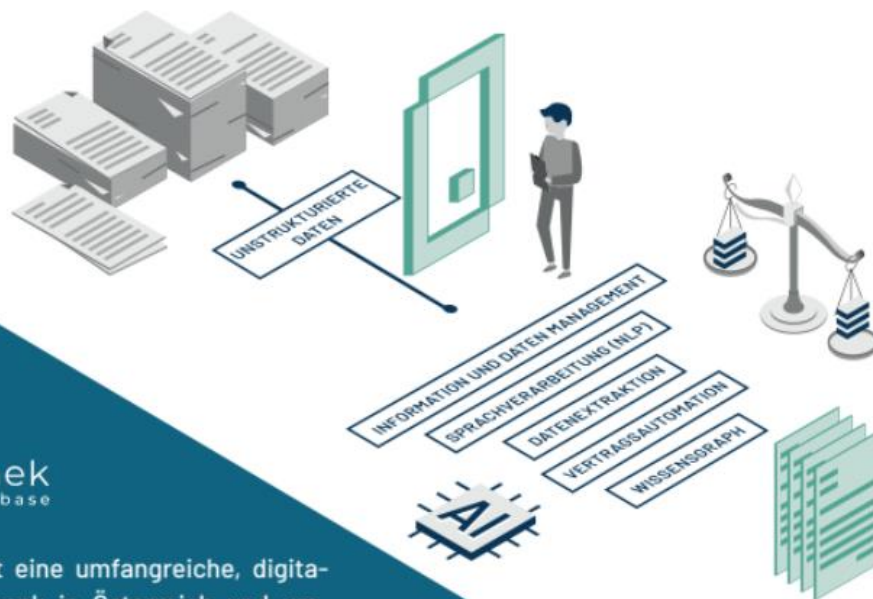
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Many thanks our supports from business and civil society!

PROGRAMM
Monday, November 6th 2023
(ReMeP Day of LVI2023)

09:30-10:00 Get2gether ReMeP2023 (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:00-10:30 Opening of ReMeP2023 - Dr. Stefan Eder, ReMeP Chair

10:30-12:00 ReMeP Topic I: Technological Best Practice of LIIs
(Chair: Stefan Eder)

*Peter Gurský, Zoltán Szoplák, Dávid Varga, Šimon Horvát, Stanislav
Krajči and Lubomír Antoni:*

Towards a Unified Legal Framework: SKLII - Bridging Disjointed Slovak
Legal Systems through Automated Text Analysis and Visualization

Lydia-Mutindi Jacobs and Charles Uugwanga:
Namibia's Path to Disseminating Public Legal Information

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-15:30 ReMeP Topic II: Law as code - Text to logical code
(Chair: Stefan Eder)

Andrew Mowbray, Philip Chung and Graham Greenleaf:
Automating 'Rules as Code': Applications scope, from legislation to
standards

Tomer Libal:
Ethical AI for Legal Services

Matthew Waddington:
Computer-Readable Legislative Project

Björn Lellmann, Christian Schieb:
Law as Code Project

Adrian Kelly:
An experiment: AI-written code for a computer programme
to digitally model NZ legislation (online)

15:30-16:00 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

PROGRAMM
Monday, November 6th 2023

16:00-17:30 FALM Meeting (members and guests only!)

Francis Barragan:
Introduction

Francis Barragan:
Update on the Montréal Declaration: what are the pain points?

Ginevra Peruginelli:
FALM Membership: Re-thinking membership and procedures for applications for membership and maybe involving other organizations working in the same direction, like partner organizations supporting the same interests of free access to the law community

Ivan Mokanov:
Future hot topics of interest for LII's: Sustainability, Data Monetization, Replicability, etc.

Phillip Chung, Graham Greenleaf & Erich Schweighofer:
What's next for LVI & FALM :

Next LVI + 35th anniversary

Francis Barragan:
Varia and closing

18:00-20:00 Get2gether, followed by individually organised dinners

PROGRAMM

Tuesday, November 7th 2023

09:00-09:15 Opening of LVI2023

Vicedean Prof. Dr. Christian Koller, Faculty of Law, University of Vienna
Ronald Bieber, General Secretary of the Austrian Computing Society OCG
Programme and survival: conference chairs Stefan Eder & Felix Schmautzer

09:15-10:00 Invited Talk I:

Graham Greenleaf, Philip Chung and Andrew Mowbray:
Policies to ensure that AI benefits free access to law
(Chair: Stefan Eder)

10:00-10:30 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:30-12:30 Session I: From Text Corpora to generative AI (Chair: Francis Barragan)

John Joergensen:
AI and Contemporary Anthropological Philosophy

Sara S. Frug:
LII in Real Life: Emerging Technologies, Legal Data, and the Ever-Moving
Target

Ivan Mokanov:
What are we building next? CanLII's positioning in the new AI world – no-
cost, trustworthy, technologically audacious

Enrico Francesconi:
Modeling Bibliographic Resources for Promoting Free Access to European
Parliament Public Documents (online)

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

PROGRAMM

Tuesday, November 7th 2023

14:00-15:30 Panel: A comparison of the different ways to Free Legal Information (Chair: Stefan Eder)

Panelists:

Graham Greenleaf, AustLII

Angela Stöger-Frank, Federal Finance Court

Helmut Weichsel, Federal Ministry of Finance

Anton Geist, LexisNexis Austria

Christian Sageder, LawTech of Cybly (RIS App)

15:30-16:00 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

16:00-17:30 Session II: Open Access
(Chair: Graham Greenleaf)

Ginevra Peruginelli:

Fostering Open Science: The Advocacy for Secondary Publishing Rights in European Scientific Publishing

Craig Newton:

Legal Information, Copyright Law, and Open Access: The American Perspective

Michael Cheung, Tien-Hsuan Wu, Mingruo Yuan, Ben Kao, Anne SY Cheung, and Felix WH Chan:

Navigating the Legal Matrix with the Legal Question Bank and the CLIC

Srijoni Sen:

Multilingual Access to Legal Information in India: Policy and Technology Dimensions

19:00-22:00 "Heuriger" - Dinner at the „Twelve-apostle's cellar”
(Zwölf-Apostelkeller), Sonnenfelsgasse 3, 1010 Wien

PROGRAMM

Wednesday, November 8th 2023

09:00-10:00 Invited Talk II:

Gabor Rescki, Andi Rauber: Generative AI & IR: What can AI do for Advanced Legal Research?
(Chair: Felix Schmutzner)

10:00-10:30 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:30-12:30 Session III: Next generation services of LLIs (Chair: Sara S. Frug)

Marco Billi, Guisepppe Pissano, Alessandro Parenti and Marco Sanchi:
Explainable rule-based reasoning through large language models: a hybrid approach for accessible legal information communication (online)

Frédéric Pelletier:
CatLII Unleashed: AI Case Analysis for CanLII Decisions

Marc-André Morissette:
Exploiting Citation Networks in Large Corpora to Improve Relevance on Broad Queries

Leyang Huang, Daniel Hicks, Xiang Chen, Ben Kao and Tien-Hsuan Wu:
On the Use of Large Language Model and Legal Knowledge Base in Community Legal Education (online)

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

PROGRAMM

Wednesday, November 8th 2023

14:00-15:45 Session IV: Legal issues of online publication

(Chair: Ivan Mokanov (tbc))

Marc van Opijnen:

Recent case law regarding the GDPR, relevant for the publication of court decisions and the communication of cases

Carina Pillay:

Balancing the right to data protection and the right of access to legal information in South Africa

Marc A. Ostoja-Starzewski:

Data, spaces, channels - Automated utilization of data via smart contracts

15:45-16:00 Closing session

(LVI2023 chairs: Stefan Eder, Felix Schmutzer)

PROGRAMM with ABSTRACTS

Monday, November 6th 2023

09:30-10:00 Get2gether ReMeP2023 (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:00-10:30 Opening of ReMeP2023 - Dr. Stefan Eder, ReMeP Chair

**10:30-12:00 ReMeP Topic I: Technological Best Practice of LIIs
(Chair: Stefan Eder)**

*Peter Gurský, Zoltán Szoplák, Dávid Varga, Šimon Horvát, Stanislav
Krajčí and Lubomír Antoni:*

**Towards a Unified Legal Framework: SkLII - Bridging Disjointed Slovak
Legal Systems through Automated Text Analysis and Visualization**

ABSTRACT

In this paper we present our efforts to create a system SkLII, inspired by portals of FALM members, that will tackle the task of grouping, interconnecting, and searching over publicly available Slovak legal text. We introduce the current state of various disjointed legal systems created by multiple subbranches of the Slovak government, as well as paid portals driven by private companies. We also present our ongoing progress regarding creating several methods for automated extraction of various relevant attributes from legal text, a dictionary of legal terms, and a Web UI for visualizing judicial decisions and other legal text.

Lydia-Mutindi Jacobs and Charles Uugwanga:
Namibia's Path to Disseminating Public Legal Information

ABSTRACT

Public access to Namibian law is facilitated through various channels, including legislation databases, official government websites, legal information portals, and libraries. These resources aim to provide citizens, legal professionals, researchers, and other interested parties with easy access to the laws and regulations of Namibia.

The government of Namibia recognizes the importance of providing accessible and accurate legal information to the public, as it plays a crucial role in promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. This article will delve into the journey that Namibia has undertaken to enhance the dissemination of public legal information and the various initiatives that have been implemented to achieve this goal.

One of the key milestones in Namibia's journey towards communicating public legal information was the enactment of the Access to Information Act in 2022. This legislation aimed to promote transparency and accountability by granting individuals the right to access information held by public bodies. The Act not only facilitates access to general information but also specifically addresses access to legal information. It requires public bodies to proactively publish certain categories of information, including laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines. This provision ensures that citizens have easy access to essential legal materials.

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

**13:00-15:30 ReMeP Topic II: Law as code - Text to logical code
(Chair: Stefan Eder)**

Andrew Mowbray, Philip Chung and Graham Greenleaf:
Automating 'Rules as Code': Applications scope, from legislation to standards

ABSTRACT

Rules as Code (RaC) is a field of research into making human-made rules usable by machines, to perform useful results. The rules to which RaC can be applied include statutes, regulations and many other types of law-related rules, as well as organisational rules such as codes of practice, codes of conduct and business procedures.

With much of the current focus relating to Generative AI and other applications of Large Language Models, RaC provides the potential to add overall control of structured decision making and to improve transparency and explanation of decisions.

This presentation outlines an approach to modelling legal rules, particularly legislative rules, that focuses on representing legislation as a hierarchical set of propositions, recording both mechanical structure and real world meaning. It suggests a methodology for expressing these rules in a way that is machine consumable.

The presentation describes the progress that has been made by AustLII in the development of a system called 'ylegis' that leverages this form of representation in several ways including automated conversion of existing legislative rules. Based on this experience, the paper also demonstrates how the drafting of legislation and other rules could be changed to make it directly machine and humanly readable.

We explain a number of the conceptual and technical elements of this approach:

- The overall model for legislation and other rules
- The use of structure to understand and express the organisation of underlying open textured propositions and statements
- The way that this can be exploited to extract meaning and how elements interrelate
- Rules types that can be modelled in this way
- Using the model for legal of drafting of rules

We conclude by emphasising the potential for using RaC as a means for embedding the rule of law in Generative AI and other Automated decision applications.

Tomer Libal:
Ethical AI for Legal Services

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence can enhance almost any task. At the same time, ethical issues such as bias, errors, transparency and explainability make using it in some domains, such as the legal one, problematic.

Can one enjoy the power of AI without the shortcomings? I will discuss the possibility of using Hybrid AI for achieving this task and demonstrate two applications which are based on this idea.

Matthew Waddington:
Computer-Readable Legislative Project

Björn Lellmann, Christian Schieb:
Law as Code Project

Adrian Kelly:
An experiment: AI-written code for a computer programme
to digitally model NZ legislation (online)

ABSTRACT

This paper outlines a proposed experiment, to be undertaken in New Zealand, to ascertain whether a large language model (LLM)-trained AI could write a programme that analyses Legal text for executable rule content, and then write out executable digital code that models the legal effect of the Legal text.

Can an AI be trained to write the text of a programme that reads Legal text and analytically extracts logical content in a format usable by digital computers? LLMs do not necessarily have the ability to synthesise analytical categories necessary for the task, and, of course, the AI has to analyse the corpus and then produce the programme text and then test output against base Legal text, for congruence between code and rules. The experiment will use ChatGPT4. The experiment will explore whether or not such original analytical thought is beyond the LLM statistical training methodology. And whether or not it is actually necessary at all. The experiment will explore the hypothesis that if the AI is given "known good" output, it can statistically determine the path to that output, from the base Legal text material, ignoring analytical categories.

However, substituting a statistical method may give no assurance that the base Legal text is correctly represented in the output. We immediately run into Turing's halting problem. The AI's training will use Legal texts with "known good" output, as intimated above. Novallex Ltd can provide one such training set, in terms of the digital model (produced by humans) of the United Kingdom's Universal Credit legislation. Other training sets can be produced by humans using existing technology.

The complete digital model of Universal Credit dataset is available in LogLaw. LogLaw is a logical language written for digitally modelling the law and provides a reference for AI learning in this area.

15:30-16:00 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

16:00-17:30 FALM Meeting (members and guests only!)

Francis Barragan:
Introduction

Francis Barragan:
Update on the Montréal Declaration: what are the pain points?

Ginevra Peruginelli:
FALM Membership: Re-thinking membership and procedures for applications for membership and maybe involving other organizations working in the same direction, like partner organizations supporting the same interests of free access to the law community

Ivan Mokanov:
Future hot topics of interest for LII's: Sustainability, Data Monetization, Replicability, etc.

Phillip Chung, Graham Greenleaf & Erich Schweighofer:
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Francis Barragan:
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Ronald Bieber, General Secretary of the Austrian Computing Society OCG

09:15-10:00 Invited Talk I:

Graham Greenleaf, Policies to ensure that AI benefits free access to law
(Chair: Stefan Eder)

10:00-10:30 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:30-12:30 Session I: From Text Corpora to generative AI

(Chair: Francis Barragan)

John Joergensen:

AI and Contemporary Anthropological Philosophy

ABSTRACT

There have been countless efforts in the A.I. computing community in the area of legal decision making. However, all of them either fail, or are limited to very small domains. This is because all legal reasoning is affected by judgment calls made by individual judges which interpret both statutory and case-law.

There are logic models that accommodate values used by judges in decision making. Those models can be guided using ethical analysis.

This talk will outline the ethics of Anthropological Philosophy, how it explains legal decision making processes, and explains how this approach is well suited to machine learning.

Sara S. Frug:
LII in Real Life: Emerging Technologies, Legal Data, and the Ever-Moving
Target

ABSTRACT

Through the lens of a set of examples from recent work of the Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School on U.S. legal resources, this paper explores ways in which the alignments and misalignments between primary law data, external corpora, and evolving models and services create an information landscape in which stability is elusive. It suggests opportunities for free access to law initiatives to share observations about the legal data with which we work in order to help data consumers and re-users understand the characteristics of the data they are using and stabilize and improve the resulting models and services.

Ivan Mokanov:

What are we building next? CanLII's positioning in the new AI world – no-cost, trustworthy, technologically audacious

ABSTRACT

Over the past 20 years, CanLII has earned a quasi-institutional status. This is due in part to CanLII's governance model - the fact that it is owned by Canadian law societies. Another reason is CanLII's track record, which features a solid performance and quality of service. With ever more powerful AI capabilities, CanLII and Lexum intend to build on this trustworthiness to differentiate themselves from other players.

While everyone's eyes are turned towards AI-driven end-user capabilities, we believe that continuing the work to gather, enrich, exploit, or generate data remains paramount for CanLII's positioning. CanLII's data assets are composed of (1) primary sources, (2) user data, and (3) originally created content. We will discuss the challenges and opportunities that can be associated with each type of data, acknowledging that data strategies remain fundamental to CanLII's success.

CanLII's goal has always been to serve everyone – lawyers - from solo practitioners to those practising in large firms, the public, the judiciary, the academia, and so on. This is perfectly aligned with a mandate to democratize access to information, but also access to technology. With over 650,000 unique visitors per month, and about 150,000 searches per day, deploying AI-powered tools can entail significant infrastructure costs, which could be at odds with free access to law funding models. We will elaborate on this specific challenge and discuss possible solutions.

Further, we will present an overview of Lexum's technology strategy around AI, starting with the use of pre-trained models, building our own "large" language model, and relying on commercially available platforms from OpenAI and others.

Finally, we will present our next AI-enabled projects: summarization, translation, capturing search analytics, exploiting learning-to-rank algorithms to optimize relevance ranking, neural search, and, perhaps, retrieval-augmented generation.

Enrico Francesconi:
Modeling Bibliographic Resources for Promoting Free Access to European
Parliament Public Documents (online)

ABSTRACT:

The European Parliament manages a large number of bibliographic resources, including legal documents, books, papers, reports, manuals and factsheets. To the aim of making such material accessible as Linked Data, bibliographic resources have to be identified, classified as well as described by metadata. In this work we present an approach based on an ontology, called BIBRES, including a taxonomy for classifying bibliographic resources, while meta- data are organised according to the IFLA FRBR model, which describes bibliographic resources at different levels of abstraction. A URI pattern providing a common bibliographic resources identification system is also proposed.

12:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Panel: A comparison of the different ways to Free Legal Information (Chair: Stefan Eder)

Panelists:

Graham Greenleaf, AustLII

Angela Stöger-Frank, Federal Finance Court

Helmut Weichsel, Federal Ministry of Finance

Anton Geist, LexisNexis Austria

Christian Sageder, LawTech of Cybly (RIS App)

15:30-16:00 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

16:00-17:30 Session II: Open Access

(Chair: Graham Greenleaf)

Ginevra Peruginelli:

Fostering Open Science: The Advocacy for Secondary Publishing Rights in European Scientific Publishing

ABSTRACT

The scientific publishing landscape is undergoing rapid evolution. However, an often-underestimated facet is the management of copyright, crucial for facilitating reuse. Scientific publications, as intellectual properties, are afforded legal protection under copyright laws, primarily governed by publishers' rights. Within this domain, notable advancements have been achieved in the active promotion of Open Access initiatives. In the U.S.A., the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has implemented a policy of immediate open access (green open access) for publications derived from public funding. Similarly, the European Union has mandated Open Access for all Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe grantees; Initiatives such as the European Open Science Cloud¹ and Open Research Europe² have received substantial funding to advance Open Access objectives. Moreover, the cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy³ empowers authors by preserving essential publishing rights, facilitating wider research dissemination, and promoting open access practices. The priority of a European action in this direction is also reinforced by conclusions and recommendations presented in two recent studies commissioned by DG RTD/Open Science on the impact of EU copyright law on (a) access and reuse of scientific publications⁴ and (b) access to scientific data⁵.

However, at the national level, not many European countries have passed laws allowing publicly funded research articles online, albeit with a waiting period. These provisions affirm researchers' right to publish regardless of contractual obligations. This paper sheds light on the pressing need for the introduction of Secondary Publishing Rights across all European countries, enabling the immediate republication of publicly funded contributions⁶. Additionally, the presentation unveils a newly funded international project tailored to raise awareness within the Italian research community about Secondary Publishing Rights and Rights Retention. This initiative not only aims to empower researchers to promptly and widely share their work but also strives to fill the legislative gaps concerning republishing rights in Italy's scientific domain.

By highlighting the crucial significance of these rights in enhancing transparency and accessibility, the paper underscores the pressing need for all European countries to embrace this transformative approach urgently.

Craig Newton:
Legal Information, Copyright Law, and Open Access: The American
Perspective

ABSTRACT

This paper recounts specific pieces of copyright litigation in the US courts—both recently decided and ongoing—and then explores the potential ramifications on American open access legal publishers. These rulings may not only define a clearer set of rules for what happens when private entities claim copyright on materials that have become part of the public law that citizens are presumed to know, they also will have implications for the AI-powered applications that might assist lawyers and the general public in the near future.

*Michael Cheung, Tien-Hsuan Wu, Mingruo Yuan, Ben Kao, Anne SY
Cheung, and Felix WH Chan:*

Navigating the Legal Matrix with the Legal Question Bank and the CLIC

ABSTRACT

The advancement of the Internet has brought about a significant transformation in the accessibility of legal information since the 1990s, empowering individuals to seek legal information independently at anytime from anywhere. The Community Legal Information Centre (“CLIC”) website is one of many examples that provide free legal information in Hong Kong in non-technical language to the community. However, the process of finding relevant legal information continues to pose challenges, particularly for individuals without a legal background.

This paper addresses the obstacles faced by individuals in finding legal information and discusses the development of two components—the Legal Question Bank (“LQB”) and the CLIC Recommender (“CRec”)—to improve the retrieval of relevant legal information on the CLIC website.

Srijoni Sen:
Multilingual Access to Legal Information in India: Policy and Technology
Dimensions

ABSTRACT

In 2019 the Supreme Court of India launched a translation tool that used neural machine translation to translate its judgments into 9 different Indian languages. This was a laudable attempt harnessing machine language technologies to improve access to legal information. Language access is critical in a multilingual country like India where English and Hindi are the only two official languages, but 22 languages are recognised in the Constitution and at least 55 are spoken by over 1 million people each.

When it comes to the translation of legislation - statutes, rules, and regulations, we see much less progress in contrast to judgments. The question of language in legal publication has, broadly speaking, been left to the discretion of the Indian government. In practice, the Union Government has published its laws primarily in English, while in recent years there has been a push to promote Hindi as the chief legislative language. When it comes to translation, neither human nor machine translation has taken hold. There are even documented instances of the government opposing multilingualism in laws, as in 2020 when the Union Government resisted the publication of the new draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notifications in all recognised languages.

In this context, this paper explores the potential of existing technologies and efforts to improve multilingual access to legislative information in India, the legal norms that underpin access currently, and the policy challenges that impede progress. It studies, in particular, the intervention of courts on this issue through what is called Public Interest Litigation. It concludes that a rights-based approach, rooted in the Constitutionally recognised right to information, coupled with adoption of new machine translation technologies, can accelerate multilingual access to legislative information.

19:00-22:00 "Heuriger" - Dinner at a local winery

PROGRAMM with ABSTRACTS

Wednesday, November 8th 2023

09:00-10:00 Invited Talk II:

Gabor Rescki, Andi Rauber: Generative AI & IR: What can AI do for Advanced Legal Research? (Chair: Felix Schmutz)

10:00-10:30 Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)

10:30-12:30 Session III: Next generation services of LLIs (Chair: Ginevra Peruginelli)

Marco Billi, Guisepe Pissano, Alessandro Parenti and Marco Sanchi:
Explainable rule-based reasoning through large language models: a hybrid approach for accessible legal information communication (online)

ABSTRACT

Our work addresses the challenge of making rule-based legal reasoning systems more understandable to non-computer science stakeholders. These systems often use complex programming languages, creating a barrier for comprehension. We propose using large language models (LLMs) to translate these technical explanations into natural language, making them accessible and clear. The study explores various methods for translating outcomes and highlights the benefits of simplifying legalese and providing translations in relevant languages. Ultimately, the paper advocates for LLMs to enhance the accessibility and explainability of rule-based legal systems, contributing to a democratic and stakeholder-oriented view of legal technology.

Frédéric Pelletier:

CatLII Unleashed: AI Case Analysis for CanLII Decisions

ABSTRACT

This paper will present the underpinnings of CatLII, a project unveiled in late spring 2023 by CanLII and Lexum. CatLII is a pilot project that harnesses the prowess of artificial intelligence (AI) while infusing it with the inquisitiveness and agility reminiscent of a cat. Developed by Lexum Lab, CatLII employs a Large Language Model (LLM) to generate concise and standardized analyses of a few hundred court of appeal decisions from CanLII. CatLII's case analysis embodies the precision and structure akin to legal reasoning, by meticulously engineering prompts that are specific to the expected outcome of case headnotes. CatLII adeptly summarizes the factual background, procedural history, parties' submissions, legal issues and reasons for decision in a concise and accurate manner. Each element seamlessly links to the relevant paragraphs within the corresponding decision, affording users the means to scrutinize the validity of the AI-generated analysis. The launch of CatLII marked a significant step in the evolution of AI-assisted legal analysis, promising to augment legal research and enrich the CanLII website.

Marc-André Morissette:
Exploiting Citation Networks in Large Corpora to Improve Relevance on
Broad Queries

ABSTRACT

We at Lexum host and manage legal databases: largely unstructured text corpora comprised of millions of documents, each several thousand words long.

In such corpora, broad search queries such as “eavesdropping” or “residential eviction enforcement” are difficult to rank. Thousands of documents discuss these topics intently, but which should the user see first? We assert that ranking by authority is intuitive and meets most users’ expectations.

We have created an algorithm that analyzes a corpus’s citation network and identifies the most cited documents in the context of the user’s query. Heavily cited documents are inferred to be more authoritative. This approach can even rescue relevant documents that were initially missed because they do not contain the query’s terms.

We will present the math behind our algorithm, our Lucene/Solr implementation, and how we put the algorithm into production by merging traditional ranking methods with this new ranking approach.

Leyang Huang, Daniel Hicks, Xiang Chen, Ben Kao and Tien-Hsuan Wu:
On the Use of Large Language Model and Legal Knowledge Base in
Community Legal Education (online)

ABSTRACT

The Community Legal Information Centre (CLIC)¹ is a platform maintained by the Hong Kong University Law and Technology Centre. The objective of CLIC is to present the law in less formal and less technical languages so that the law is more comprehensible to the general public. Selected legal concepts that are of public interests are presented in web pages on the CLIC platform.

We study how to develop a chatbot that provides relevant and reliable legal information to a user given just a verbal description of a situation of the user. We introduce a prototype system, called C-Chat, that intelligently integrates a number of advanced AI tools to converse with a user and to respond to a user’s legal query based on CLIC’s legal knowledge base. We document a demo walk-through of C-Chat, which illustrates the following elements of the chatbot: (1) Given a user’s verbal description of a situation, C-Chat employs an LLM to conduct a conversation with the user. Specifically, the LLM is engineered to identify (through the conversation) potential legal topics that are of interest to the user. In the conversation, the LLM would also attempt to summarize the user’s input into a few key legal questions. This step helps the user articulate his/her legal concerns. (2) Given the information collected from the user, C-Chat conducts a semantic search using text embedding technique to locate CLIC-pages whose contents provide relevant legal knowledge. (3) Finally, C-Chat organizes the retrieved legal knowledge and employs an LLM to compose a human-like response to the user.

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:45 Session IV: Legal issues of online publication

(Chair: Sara S. Frug)

Marc van Opijnen:

Recent case law regarding the GDPR, relevant for the publication of court decisions and the communication of cases

ABSTRACT

It is uncontested that the publication of court decisions on the internet is important for the transparency and scrutability of the judiciary, for academic research, and to reinforce the knowledge and accessibility of the law. At the same time it is acknowledged that persons involved in court cases run the risk of having their (often intimate) personal data exposed, for everybody, for always.

Within the European Union the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) entered into in force in 2018. The realization that the GDPR is also applicable to the publication of court decisions – as well as to other communications from courts – seems to be dawning just slowly.

In this presentation we will discuss some recent GDPR related cases from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and some Netherlands courts on these matters.

Carina Pillay:

Balancing the right to data protection and the right of access to legal information in South Africa

ABSTRACT

The South African Constitution declares that everyone has a right of access to any information held by the state as well as held by another person provided that the information is required to protect or exercise a right. The South African legal system has embraced open access to legal information such as case law, legal documents, parliamentary bills, statutes, parliamentary debates, and government gazettes. This paper argues that Open Access to legal resources is beneficial for the country, its citizens, researchers and students of law. Open Access to legal resources strengthens the South African democracy and ensures equality before the law. Among the challenges include that many citizens still do not have adequate access to the free resources. Open access to legal resources therefore only benefits those who have access to the Internet, and the legal awareness and skills to search and understand the information. In present-day society more and more personal information is being collected. The nature of the collection has also changed: more sensitive and potentially prejudicial information is collected. The advent of artificial intelligence and the development of new telecommunications technology, linking computers in networks (principally the Internet) and enabling the transfer of information between computer systems, have made information increasingly important, and boosted the collection and use of personal information. Therefore, the processing of personal information poses a threat to a person's right to privacy. Since the common law in South Africa does not provide adequate protection for personal data, data protection legislation is also required. The paper will seek to examine the legal protection of data privacy in South Africa. Investigating this issue is crucial in the wake of the rise in data processing activities as a result of the relative advances in technology.

Marc A. Ostoja-Starzewski:
Data, spaces, channels - Automated utilization of data via smart
contracts

ABSTRACT

Creating value from data requires the utilization from the data sources or in rooms in which they are stored. Further, training of algorithms requires the most comprehensive data possible with assured data quality. The so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution brings forth a large number of machine data in industrial networks. Further, health records are important for both research and commercial purposes. At the same time, they are highly sensitive. Data protection and the treating and duties of confidentiality pose high hurdles for access and utilization. At the same time, there is an interest in access, which is also generally required by EU-regulation such as the Data Act. In the area of public law decisions by authorities, access to the results and reasons of decisions offers the opportunity to promote the uniformity of executive actions and also to analyze the concrete practise and handling in cities and municipalities. The introduction of data trustee concepts offers an approach to enable access to and utilization of data while at the same time complying with legal requirements. The provision of data by means of legally compliant and technically validly designed and implemented infrastructure is a requirement for success and may be achieved via smart contracts.

15:45-16:00 Closing session

Presentation slides

See conference website (only for registered participants)

Monday, November 6, 2023 - ReMep2023 & LVI2023 Colloquium

09:30-10:00	<i>Get2gether ReMeP2023 (coffee, tea, air etc.)</i>				
10:00-10:30	Opening of ReMeP2023 - Dr. Stefan Eder, ReMeP Chair				
10:30-12:00	ReMeP Topic I: Technological Best Practice of LII's (Chair: Stefan Eder)				
	Peter Gurský, Zoltán Szoplák, Dávid Varga, Šimon Horvát, Stanislav Krajčí and Lubomír Antoni:	Lydia-Mutindi Jacobs and Charles Uugwanga: Namibia's Path to Disseminating Public Legal Information			
	Towards a Unified Legal Framework: SkLII - Bridging Disjointed Slovak Legal Systems through Automated Text Analysis and Visualization				
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>				
13:00-15:30	ReMeP Topic II: Law as code - Text to logical code (Chair: Stefan Eder)				
	Andrew Mowbray, Philip Chung and Graham Greenleaf: Automating 'Rules as Code': Applications scope, from legislation to standards	Tomer Libal: Ethical AI for Legal Services	Matthew Waddington: Computer-Readable Legislative Project	Björn Lellmann, Christian Schieb: Law as Code Project	Adrian Kelly, An experiment: AI-written code for a computer programme to digitally model NZ legislation (online)
15:30-16:00	<i>Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)</i>				
16:00-17:30	FALM Meeting (members and guests only!)				
	Francis Barragan: Introduction	Francis Barragan: Update on the Montréal Declaration: what are the pain points?	Ginevra Peruginelli: FALM Membership: Re-thinking membership and procedures for applications for membership and maybe involving other organizations working in the same direction, like partner organizations supporting the same interests of free access to the law community		
	Ivan Mokanov: Future hot topics of interest for LII's: Sustainability, Data Monetization, Replicability, etc.	Phillip Chung, Graham Greenleaf & Erich Schweighofer: What's next for LVI & FALM : Next LVI + 35th anniversary	Francis Barragan: Varia and closing		
18:00-20:00	Get2gether, followed by individually organised dinners				

Tuesday, November 7, 2023				
09:00-09:15	Opening of LVI2023 - Vicedean Prof. Dr. Christian Koller, Faculty of Law, University of Vienna & Ronald Bieber, General Secretary of the Austrian Computing Society OCG Programm & Survival - LVI2023 Chairs			
09:15-10:00	Invited Talk I: Graham Greenleaf, Philip Chung and Andrew Mowbray: Policies to ensure that AI benefits free			
10:00-10:30	Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)			
Session I: From Text Corpora to generative AI (Chair: Francis Barragan)				
10:30-12:30	John Joergensen, AI and Contemporary Anthropological Philosophy	Sara S. Frug, LII in Real Life: Emerging Technologies, Legal Data, and the Ever-Moving Target	Ivan Mokanov, What are we building next? CanLII's positioning in the new AI world – no-cost, trustworthy, technologically audacious	Enrico Francesconi, Modeling Bibliographic Resources for Promoting Free Access to European Parliament Public Documents (online)
12:00-14:00	Lunch break			
14:00-15:30	Panel: A comparison of the different ways to Free Legal Information *** Panelists: Graham Greenleaf, AustLII; Angela Stöger-Frank, Federal Finance Court; Helmut Weichsel, Federal Ministry of Finance; Anton Geist, LexisNexis Austria; Christian Sageder, LawTech of Cybly (RIS App) (Chair: Stefan Eder)			
15:30-16:00	Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)			
Session II: Open Access (Chair: Graham Greenleaf)				
16:00-17:30	Ginevra Peruginelli, Fostering Open Science: The Advocacy for Secondary Publishing Rights in European Scientific Publishing	Craig Newton, Legal Information, Copyright Law, and Open Access: The American Perspective	Michael Cheung, Tien-Hsuan Wu, Mingruo Yuan, Ben Kao, Anne SY Cheung, and Felix WH Chan: Navigating the Legal Matrix with the Legal Question Bank and the CLIC	Srijoni Sen: Multilingual Access to Legal Information in India: Policy and Technology Dimensions
19:00-22:00	"Heuriger" - Dinner at a local winery			

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

09:00-10:00	Invited Talk II: Gábor Recski, Andi Rauber: Generative AI & IR: What can AI do for Advanced Legal Research? (Chair: Felix Schmautzer)			
10:00-10:30	<i>Pause/break (coffee, tea, air etc.)</i>			
<i>Session III: Next generation services of LLIs (Chair: Sara S. Frug)</i>				
10:30-12:30	Marco Billi, Giuseppe Pissano, Alessandro Parenti and Marco Sanchi, Explainable rule-based reasoning through large language models: a hybrid approach for accessible legal information communication (online)	Frédéric Pelletier, CatLII Unleashed: AI Case Analysis for CanLII Decisions	Marc-André Morissette, Exploiting Citation Networks in Large Corpora to Improve Relevance on Broad Queries	Leyang Huang, Daniel Hicks, Xiang Chen, Ben Kao and Tien-Hsuan Wu, On the Use of Large Language Model and Legal Knowledge Base in Community Legal Education (online)
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>			
<i>Session IV: Legal issues of online publication (Chair: Ivan Mokanov (tbc))</i>				
14:00-15:45	Marc van Opijnen, Recent case law regarding the GDPR, relevant for the publication of court decisions and the communication of cases	Carina Pillay, Balancing the right to data protection and the right of access to legal information in South Africa	Marc A. Ostoj-Starzewski: Data, spaces, channels - Automated utilization of data via smart contracts	
15:45-16:00	Closing session			