




**Concordia University
Libraries**

**Collaboration and open access to Law
How can Web 2.0 technologies
help us understand the law?**

Olivier Charbonneau
Associate Librarian
www.culturelibre.ca

LA TECHNOLOGIE AU SERVICE DU DROIT
LEXUM






Rule of Law

Access to Justice

**Open Access
to Law**


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« **At least four billion people are excluded from the rule of law.** It is the minority of the world's people who can take advantage of legal norms and regulations. The majority of humanity is on the outside looking in, unable to count on the law's protection and unable to enter national, let alone global markets »

United-Nations Development Programs' Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (UNDP-CLEP)

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« Empowering the poor through improved dissemination of legal information and formation of peer groups (self-help) are first-step strategies towards justice. »

United-Nations Development Programs' Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (UNDP-CLEP)
<http://www.undp.org/legalempowerment/>


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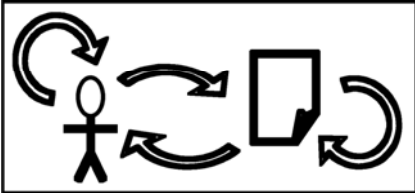

**Collaboration and open
access to Law**

« How can users significantly
contribute to a collection of open
access digital jurisprudence
[CanLII] ? »


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**Collaborative Document Management
Framework (CDMF)**



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Collaborative Document Management Framework (CDMF)

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Links

Linking court case to...

- Court cases
 - Reflex – Already done
- Websites
 - Citing tool (API)
 - Update notice
- Published documents
 - Newspapers
 - Scholarly articles
 - Books, theses
- Finding data to add
 - From users
 - Content aggregators

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Writing comments

Continuum :

- “Atomic” information
- ...
- Structured text
- Continuous text
- ...
- Photos or videos

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Writing comments

- Mark document structure
 - Tagging
- Mark facets
 - Particular aspect of a class or object
 - Subject, place, time, person
 - Dual: type – value
 - Drop down menu, input mask, free text...
- Textual metadata
 - Abstracts [indicative, informative or appreciative]
 - Continuous text = Special contributors
 - Citing “API”
 - Do not host this content yourself

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Consumption

- Subscription
 - RSS Feeds
 - Yahoo! Pipes
 - Filter for RSS Feeds
 - Rulings based on specific statutory article
 - “Trick” users by offering knowledge tools to have them declare interest
- Data exporting
 - Tools for individuals, researchers or law firms
 - Some free, others \$\$
 - Metadata about specific documents
 - Desktop analogy ?

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Conversations or exchanges



- Automated relevancy indicators
 - Rate contributions of others
 - Vote
 - [yes|no]
 - [very|some|little|none]
 - Repetition
 - “Quality” of contributor
- About text...
 - Don't host!
 - Use linking “API” to track blog/wiki posts
- Access/Read/Write Rights
 - Information:
 - Private, shared with group, open
 - Wikipedia Model

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Summary:

-  Create a linking “API” to allow for external discussion of law and external metrics of use
-  Consider the role of (hosting) external bibliographic data to foster a holistic vision of legal information



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... and maybe a legal information desktop...

(free for students & researchers...)



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The killer question:

Which community to target first for such a platform?
(soup / Tupperware question)



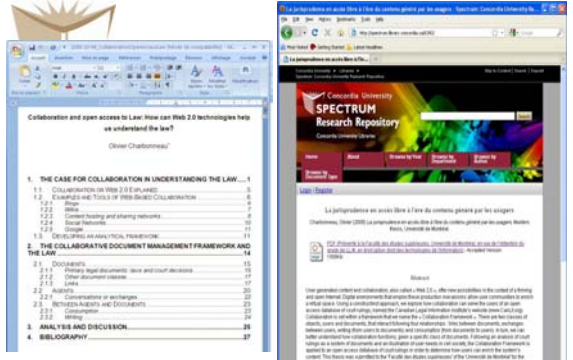
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I’m sorry I don’t have all the answers...

... but asking questions is a pretty good start!

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Merci !

Olivier Charbonneau
Associate Librarian, Concordia University
o.charbonneau@concordia.ca
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