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Chapter 1 : CALI - Your partner in legal education and technology | CALI

Computer-assisted legal research (CALR) or computer-based legal research is a mode of legal research that uses databases of court opinions, statutes, court documents, and secondary material. Electronic databases make large bodies of case law easily available.

The essence of the line, however, is no joke, and relates to destabilizing the rule of law by removing its agents – those who promote and enforce the law. What no one could predict, including Shakespeare himself, is the horrific precision with which such a deed could be carried out. The Genocide in Rwanda showed this horror and more, with upwards of one million killed in the span of three months. The effect on the legal system was particularly devastating, with the targeting of lawyers and the justice sector, resulting in the targeted killing of prosecutors and judges at its outset. One of the biggest areas of development in Rwanda, and in other areas of the world, has been strengthening justice sector institutions and strengthening the rule of law. In transitional states, especially those developing systems of democratic governance, the creation of online, reliable, and accessible legal information systems is a critical component of good governance. From , I played a very small part of this development when I served as a law clerk and legal advisor to then-Chief Justice Aloysie Cyanzayire of the Supreme Court of Rwanda. In the summer of I returned to Rwanda, with the support of the American Association of Law Libraries , to visit its law libraries and understand the role of law libraries in legal institutions and overall society. The discovery also highlighted the importance of legal information systems and their role in justice sector reform. Once a Belgian colony, at independence Rwanda inherited a civil law system , codified much of the Belgian civil code, and today the main body of laws comes from enactments of Parliament. With its civil law roots, courts in Rwanda were largely unconcerned with precedent. As Rwanda became a member of the East African Community in and adopted English as an official language , the judiciary started a transition to a hybrid common law system, considering how to assign precedential value to court decisions. Online Legal Information Systems In order to establish the rule of law in a democratic system, citizens must have access, at the very minimum, to laws of a government. To make this access meaningful, a searchable database of laws should be created to allow users of legal information to find laws based on their particular information need. For this reason alone it is important for governments in transitional states to make a commitment to developing online legal information systems. John Palfrey aptly noted: Every law library, university library, and even the Kigali Public Library have paper copies of the Official Journal – the official laws of Rwanda. This site, however, was not updated after , and is now completely offline. Rwanda is using its growing information infrastructure, however, to create other online quasi-legal information databases. The government is also allowing online registration of businesses , streamlining the processes and making it more accessible. While economic reform has driven these changes, justice sector reform has not yet yielded the same results for online legal information systems. Moreover, members of the justice sector, from staff members to Permanent Secretaries and Ministers, believe libraries and access to legal information is of critical importance. Some libraries have not invested in library materials in years, and have solely relied on donations to add items to their collections. It is not altogether surprising, then, that the Rwanda LIP remained un-funded, and is now completely defunct as an online legal information system. One source close to the Rwanda LIP project indicated that funding has been sought at Parliament, but as of today has yet to be successful. The failure of the Rwanda LIP is perhaps a victim of how it came to be; that is, through donor-funded development. Creating sustainable online databases requires a government commitment of financial support. For any donor-funded development initiative, sustainability is a key concern, and significant government collaboration is necessary for initiatives to remain after donor-funded projects end. While created in partnership with the Government of Rwanda, it failed to adequately secure a commitment for continued funding at its outset. The availability of financial resources is one of the key challenges to creating a sustainable online database of laws. Print to Digital Transition and Overcoming the Digital Divide In addition

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to sustainability, transition from print to digital poses its own complications, and has emerged as a major issue in law libraries, from even the most established institutions. This challenge is especially unique in the context of developing and transitional states, where access to the internet can pose a significant challenge. Of all countries in the process of developing online legal information systems, however, Rwanda is perhaps the best suited to succeed. With high-speed fibre-optic internet cables recently installed throughout the small East African country, Rwanda has one of the best internet penetration rates in the developing world. For example, the Kigali Public Library, the flagship institution of the Rwanda Library Services, houses print copies of the laws of Rwanda but also has an internet cafe giving free access to online resources. Other libraries, including the law library at the National University of Rwanda, have increasing access to online resources to serve their users. In Rwanda, a new access to information law Official Gazette No. The access to information law imposes a positive obligation on the Government of Rwanda, and some private companies working under government contracts, to disclose a broad range of information to the public and press. This and similar laws across the developing world have created a need for the improvement of existing legal information systems, or the creation of new systems to adequately make available essential legal information. A critical component to the implementation of this law, therefore, is a reliable and sustainable online legal information system. A view of the volcanoes in the Northern Province of Rwanda. It is possible that a stronger financial commitment at the outset of the Rwanda LIP would have solved this. In the future, long-term sustainability should be one of the primary qualifications for creating an online system. Talking with law librarians in Rwanda, I learned that there is little, if any research instruction being delivered from law libraries. Furthermore, law librarians generally collect, catalog and retrieve legal materials for users, rather than directing users to relevant sources. Users of legal information in Rwanda and elsewhere would be well served by being exposed to other online sources of legal information. Creating research guides and offering research instruction in these areas costs very little, and opens up countless resources that could be valuable to users of legal information in Rwanda, and elsewhere. Those working in justice sector development should investigate the possibility for this, in conjunction with creating online legal information systems of domestic laws. Nonetheless, it is remarkable that those with little or no formal training are competent librarians. Formal training or not, qualified librarians generally do not have the opportunity to offer research training to users of legal information. Treating law librarians as professionals would open up many opportunities to increase the capacity of users of legal information, and the online resources available. His research involves the use of law libraries and legal information systems to support the rule of law in developing and transitional states. In September Brian presented two papers at the Law Via the Internet conference related to this topic; one related to civil society organizations and the use of the internet to strengthen the rule of law, and another about starting online legal information systems from scratch. Editors-in-Chief are Stephanie Davidson and Christine Kirchberger, to whom queries should be directed. Posted by banderson at We introduced this concept as a new legal research platform with the release of World Constitutions Illustrated: First, we must take a brief look at how HeinOnline started and where it is going. This is how we startedâ€ Traditionally, HeinOnline libraries featured one title or a single type of legal research material. The Federal Register Library contains the Federal Register dating back to inception, with select supporting resources. Statutes at Large Library contains the U. Statutes at Large volumes dating back to inception, with select supporting resources. This is where we are goingâ€ The new subject-specific legal research platform, introduced earlier this year, has shifted from that traditional approach to a more dynamic approach of offering research libraries focused on a subject area, versus a single title or resource. This platform combines primary and secondary resources, books, law review articles, periodicals, government documents, historical documents, bibliographic references and other supporting resources all related to the same area of law, into one database, thus providing researchers one central place to find what they need. How is this platform being implemented? The platform has since been implemented in every new library that HeinOnline has released including History of Bankruptcy: Our goal when releasing this new library was to present legal researchers with a different scope than what is currently

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available for those studying constitutional law and political science. To achieve this, the library was built upon the new legal research platform, which brings together: Within the hierarchy of documents, one can find consolidated texts, amending laws, and the original text in multiple languages when translations are available. These sources include secondary source books and classic constitutional law books. To further connect these sources to the French Constitution, our Editors have reviewed each source book and classic constitutional book and linked researchers to the specific chapters or sections of the works that directly relate to the study of the French Constitution. For example, the work titled *American Nation: A History*, by Albert Bushnell Hart, has direct links to chapters from within volumes 11 and 13, each of which discusses and relates to the development of the French government. The Editors hand-selected and included these articles from the thousands of articles in the Law Journal Library due to their significance and relation to the constitutional and political development of the nation. In order for researchers to access the law review articles, they must be subscribed to the Law Journal Library.

Bibliography of Select Constitutional Books There are thousands of books related to constitutional law. Our Editors have gone through an extensive list of these resources and hand-selected books relevant to the constitutional development of each country. The selections are presented as a bibliography within each country. France has nearly bibliographic references. Many bibliographic references also contain the ISBN which links to WorldCat, allowing researchers to find the work in a nearby library.

External Links External links are also selected by the Editors as they are developing the constitutional hierarchies for each country. In addition to the significant and comprehensive coverage of every country in *World Constitutions Illustrated*, the collection also features an abundance of material related to the study of constitutional law at a higher level. This makes it useful for those researching more general or regional constitutional topics.

Searching capabilities on the new platform To further enhance the capabilities of this platform, researchers are presented with a comprehensive search tool that allows one to search the documents and books by a number of metadata points including the document date, promulgated date, document source, title, and author. For researchers studying the current constitution, the search can be narrowed to include just the current documents that make up the constitution for a country. Furthermore, a search can be generated across all the documents, classic books, or reference books for a specific country, or it can be narrower in scope to include a specific type of resource. After a search is generated, researchers will receive faceted search results, allowing them to quickly and easily drill down their results set by using facets including document type, date, country, and title.

Contributing to the project An underlying concept behind the new legal research platform is encouraging legal scholars, law libraries, subject area experts, and other professionals to contribute to the project. HeinOnline wants to work with scholars and libraries from all around the world to continue to build upon the collection and to continue developing the constitutional timelines for every country. Several libraries and scholars from around the world have already contributed constitutional works from their libraries to *World Constitutions Illustrated*.

Extending the platform beyond the pilot project As mentioned earlier, this platform has been implemented in every new library that HeinOnline has released including *History of Bankruptcy*: The primary resources in this library are the legislative histories, which can be browsed by title, public law number, or popular name. As with the searching capabilities presented in the *World Constitutions Illustrated* library, researchers can narrow a search by the type of resource, or search across everything in the library. After a search is generated, researchers will receive faceted search results, allowing them to quickly and easily drill down their results set by document type, date, or title.

Intellectual Property Law Collection The Intellectual Property Law Collection, released just over a month ago, features nearly 2 million pages of legal research material related to patents, trademarks, and copyrights in America. It includes more than books, more than legislative histories, links to more than 50 legal periodicals, federal agency documents, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, CFR Title 37, U. Furthermore, this library features a Google Patent Search widget that will allow researchers to search across more than 7 million patents made available to the public through an arrangement with Google and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Searching in the Intellectual Property Law Collection allows researchers to search across all types of documents, or narrow a

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search to just books, legislative histories, or federal agency decisions, for example. After a search is generated, researchers will receive faceted search results, allowing them to quickly and easily drill down their results set by using facets including document type, date, country, or title. HeinOnline is the modern link to legal history, and the new legal research platform bolsters this primary objective.

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Chapter 2 : Computer assisted legal research » VoxPopuLII

Computer-Assisted Legal Research. Technology that allows lawyers and judges to bypass the traditional law library and locate statutes, court cases, and other legal references in minutes using a personal computer, research software or the Internet, and an online connection.

Both services provide on-line access to the fundamental tools of the legal profession—court opinions, federal and state statutes, federal regulations, administrative law cases, and other law-related materials. Their extensive databases are updated frequently, providing attorneys with the most up-to-the-minute developments in U.S. law. CALR systems contain thousands of databases. In addition to primary source materials, they offer access to business and economic journals, national newspapers, law reviews, federal tax abstracts, and financial data and materials. Specialized databases for narrower topics such as taxes, securities, labor, insurance, and bankruptcy are also available. When CALR was first developed in the 1980s, it borrowed Boolean search techniques from the field of computer programming. A Boolean search looks for a particular term or group of terms in a specific relationship to one another. CALR Boolean searches can include limits with respect to time: CALR service providers have also created plain language search systems. Under the plain language approach, an attorney simply types in a search in the form of a question. The following two samples demonstrate the difference between a Boolean search and a plain language search for the same issue: The sample Boolean search looks for the combination of successor within five words of corporation, in the same paragraph as the combination of toxic or hazardous or chemical or dangerous within five words of waste, within the same paragraph as clean or cleanup or cleans or cleaned or cleaning the exclamation mark in clean! Cases are limited to those dated after January 1, 1980. Boolean search results usually are listed in reverse chronological order—the most recent case first. A plain language search ranks the first 20 documents that best match the search. The first ranked document is the one that most closely matches the terms in the search. A document will be ranked higher if the terms appear more often in that document. Advances in computer technology have produced another innovation in automated research: With this method, a search query is dictated either in plain language or by using Boolean terms and connectors. The keyboard is not used at all during the search. Legal researchers have the option of using CD-ROM compact disc read-only memory libraries, although these have become less popular in the early 1990s. Lawyers are also using the Internet, the public access electronic network. Because many statutes, court opinions, and library of congress materials are online, the Internet is becoming a valuable resource for business and legal research. It is also used for document transfers and client E-mail. Recent Developments Most judges, lawyers, and law librarians continue to rely on the traditional fee-based giants of online legal research—Lexis, Westlaw, and Loislaw owned by New York City-based Aspen Publishers, Inc. However, more law-related professionals are turning to free Internet sites to conduct their legal research. A number of Web sites now provide free access to a variety of legal materials that include federal and state case law, codes and regulations, treatises, law reviews, scholarly articles, mainstream news stories, as well as legal forms, public records, and attorney directories. Examples of Internet sites that provide free access to at least some of these legal resources are numerous, though the depth and breadth of coverage offered by each site varies. Among the myriad of such providers, FindLaw generally remains the benchmark for comprehensive quality. Many law school Internet sites also provide free access to a wide variety of information. This site provides a range of primary and secondary source materials, as well as directories to locate additional information on the Web. FindLaw provides multiple channels to access information from its portal and caters the information to specific types of end users. These include channels for legal professionals, students, businesses, and the public. Material specific to these targeted audiences is made available as well as resources for all users, such as cases, codes, articles, and guides. Within each channel users can drill down to the area of law that interests them. For example, students can look at outlines and examinations for a variety of legal courses, view employment opportunities, or learn about study skills.

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Business people can gain insights into starting a business, review different types of business organizations, and look into bankruptcy provisions. For the general public, topics include employment, immigration, personal injury, education, estate planning, and real estate law. FindLaw also continues to provide an excellent federal case law database that is searchable by title, citation, and full text. All cases from U. Reports from to the present are included. While boatloads of legal information can now be obtained on the Internet free of charge, the information typically consists of unanalyzed, non-value-added material such as primary-source documents stripped of the editorial enhancements provided by pay services. Such enhancements include case synopses editorially created summaries of the procedural history and holding of a case , case headnotes editorially created snapshots of each court ruling in a case , statutory annotations editorially created indices listing every case that has interpreted or applied a particular statute , and legal citators editorially created reference guides telling users whether a legal authority may still be cited in court as good law , among others. Because these editorial enhancements can be so valuable in making legal research more efficient and successful, most law-related professionals remain willing to pay significant subscriber and user fees to access them. Legal Resources from Plain to Polished. Law Office Technology Review.

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computer-assisted legal research Technology that allows lawyers and judges to bypass the traditional law library and locate statutes, court cases, and other legal references in minutes using a personal computer, research software or the internet, and an online connection.

Chapter 4 : Legal Research Using the Internet

Computer-Assisted Legal Research: Technology that allows lawyers and judges to bypass the traditional law library and locate statutes, court cases, and other legal references in minutes using a personal computer, research software or the Internet, and an online connection.

Chapter 5 : NYC Criminal Law Library

Lexis® help legal professionals in computer-assisted legal research (CALR). What the Internet is, and how it can be accessed and navigated. Some strategies for planning and conducting research on the Internet.

Chapter 6 : WikiZero - Computer-assisted legal research

Technology that allows lawyers and judges to bypass the traditional law library and locate statutes, court cases, and other legal references in minutes using a personal computer, research software or the Internet, and an online connection.

Chapter 7 : Computer-Assisted Legal Research (CALR): The Freely Accessible Internet

Computer-Assisted Legal Research, Part 2 75 Jennifer uses the Internet to direct her to the next paralegal assignment. She checks FindLaw for job listings. This site lists attorney and paralegal jobs by state.

Chapter 8 : The Internet, Computer-Assisted Legal Research, and Electronic Mail - Technology in the Law

Applications, Computer assisted legal research, Crowdsourcing and legal information systems, Digital law libraries, information retrieval 1 Response» Nov 15 In May of this year, HeinOnline began taking a new approach to legal

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research, offering researchers the ability to search or browse varying types of legal research material all.

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Computer-Assisted Legal Research, Part 2 3 Consider the type of information you're seeking, as well as case budget and time considerations, before selecting your online search method.