

PRESS RELEASE
Roll up, roll up. Get your
Taxonomies
here

October 2005

Why do you need a Taxonomy?

One of the major problems in communications between law firms and in-house lawyers is making sure we are all speaking the same language. We receive invites to seminars, briefing papers and bulletins galore but need to make sure we target the right people with the right information.

Sitting on the client side of the Litig table, we understand how difficult it can be to classify and search through information received from our favoured supplier firms. Currently there is no readily available standard for prioritising this kind of information. When trying to suggest we use an existing standard, if we could find one, we almost had to duck for cover from the animated response of our IT Director colleagues.

Having agreed there is no real standard already available in this area, we engaged with a number of suppliers and information providers who agreed to provide us with the work they had already completed. We received taxonomies which range in size from a few A4 pages to nearly 200. Our challenge was to find something much more accessible, user-friendly and simple.

A small Litig key issues team has reviewed these taxonomies with the aim of producing a useable legal taxonomy of no more than two levels. The result of our efforts is the draft copy of the Litig Taxonomy (see www.Litig.org).

In the first instance we anticipate this will be used for the exchange of training/event information and news articles. Any comments should be submitted to a member of the key issues team: Andrew Dey (andrew.dey@barclays.co.uk), Lynne Orsborn (lynne.orsborn@shell.com) and Charlotte Russell-Hargreaves (charlotte.russell-hargreaves@reuters.com)

What is a Taxonomy?

From the Greek *taxis* meaning arrangement or division and *nomos* meaning law, taxonomy is the science of classification according to a pre-determined system, with the resulting catalogue used to provide a conceptual framework for discussion, analysis, or information retrieval.

In theory, the development of a good taxonomy takes into account the importance of separating elements of a group (taxon) into subgroups (taxa) that are mutually exclusive, unambiguous, and taken together, include all possibilities. In practice, a good taxonomy should be simple, easy to remember, and easy to use.

*** READY FOR RELEASE ***

PRESS RELEASE – NOTES TO EDITORS

Derek Southall (Chair) on behalf of Litig:

Litig ('Legal IT Innovators Group') was originally formed in late 2002 to comment and advise on the potential value and use of an integrated matter management/workflow system across all desktops within a law firm. Following successful conclusion of this initiative, the group created its own independent structure and is funded by its members, who are responsible for over 30,000 legal IT users.

A strictly non-sales environment, Litig currently has 36 members from 35 firms/organisations which include law firms with UK fees from £3m to over £300m plus representatives from leading in house legal departments, all with a keen interest in UK legal IT issues.

Litig operates at a strategic rather than operational level, meets for a whole day each quarter (at one of its member's offices) and has had/given presentations on topics such as:

- Electronic Billing (from the in house legal client's perspective & required UK standards)
- Digital Dictation
- XML standards (such as LSSA and PISCES)
- Legal IT trends & priorities
- The effect of the 'Statutory Imperative' caused by government initiatives

Litig are keen to work with existing legal sector bodies (such as The Law Society or Society for Computers & Law) in order to pursue a co-ordinated approach, support other groups and avoid duplication of effort.

If you are interested in finding out more about LITIG or would like to become a member – please visit the Litig web site www.Litig.org, contact Litig via mail@Litig.org or call Derek Southall (Chair) on 0870 733 0573, Peter Owen (Secretary) on 0121 706 1755, Rosemary Kind (Treasurer) on 07712 647754 or Jan Durant (Communications Officer) on 020 7074 8037.