

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

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# The “better” question: How should society discuss the law?

(Hypothesis: the more people “talk” about  
the law, the more people “know” about the  
law, the busier lawyers will be)

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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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# Rule of Law

## Access to Justice

### Open Access to Law

LA TECHNOLOGIE AU SERVICE DU DROIT

LEXUM

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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  
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<http://www.undp.org/legalempowerment/>

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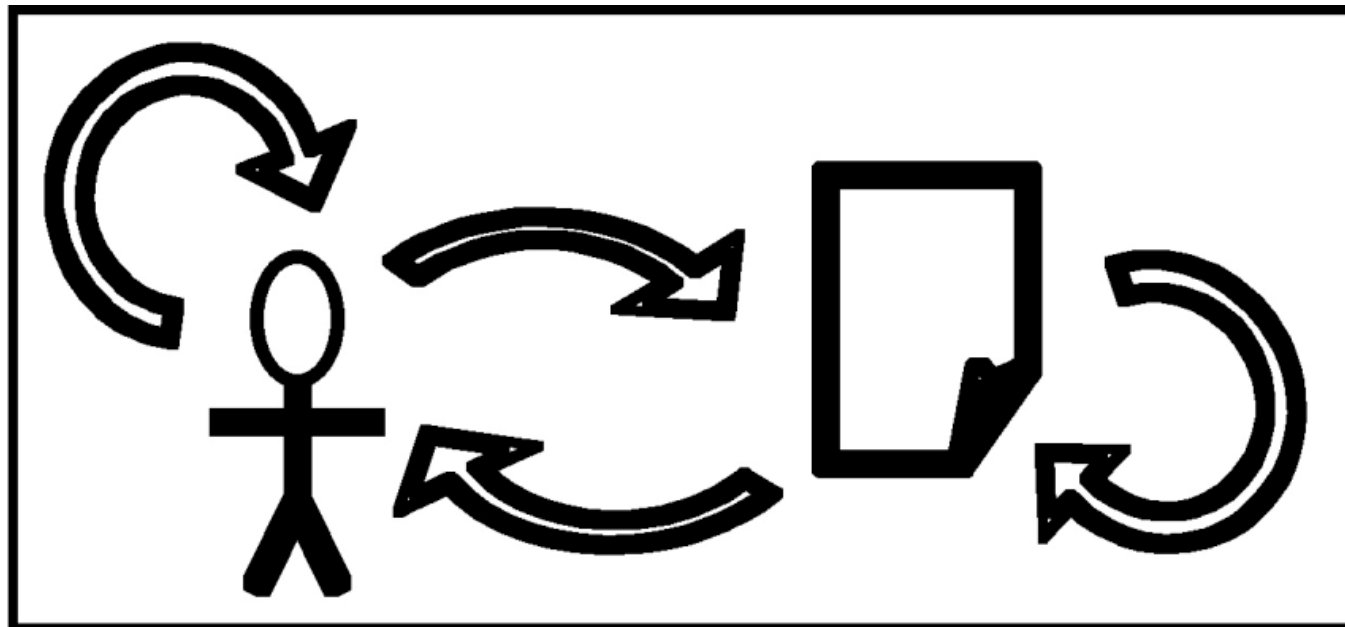
# Collaboration and open access to Law

« How can users significantly  
contribute to a collection of open  
access digital jurisprudence

[CanLII] ? »

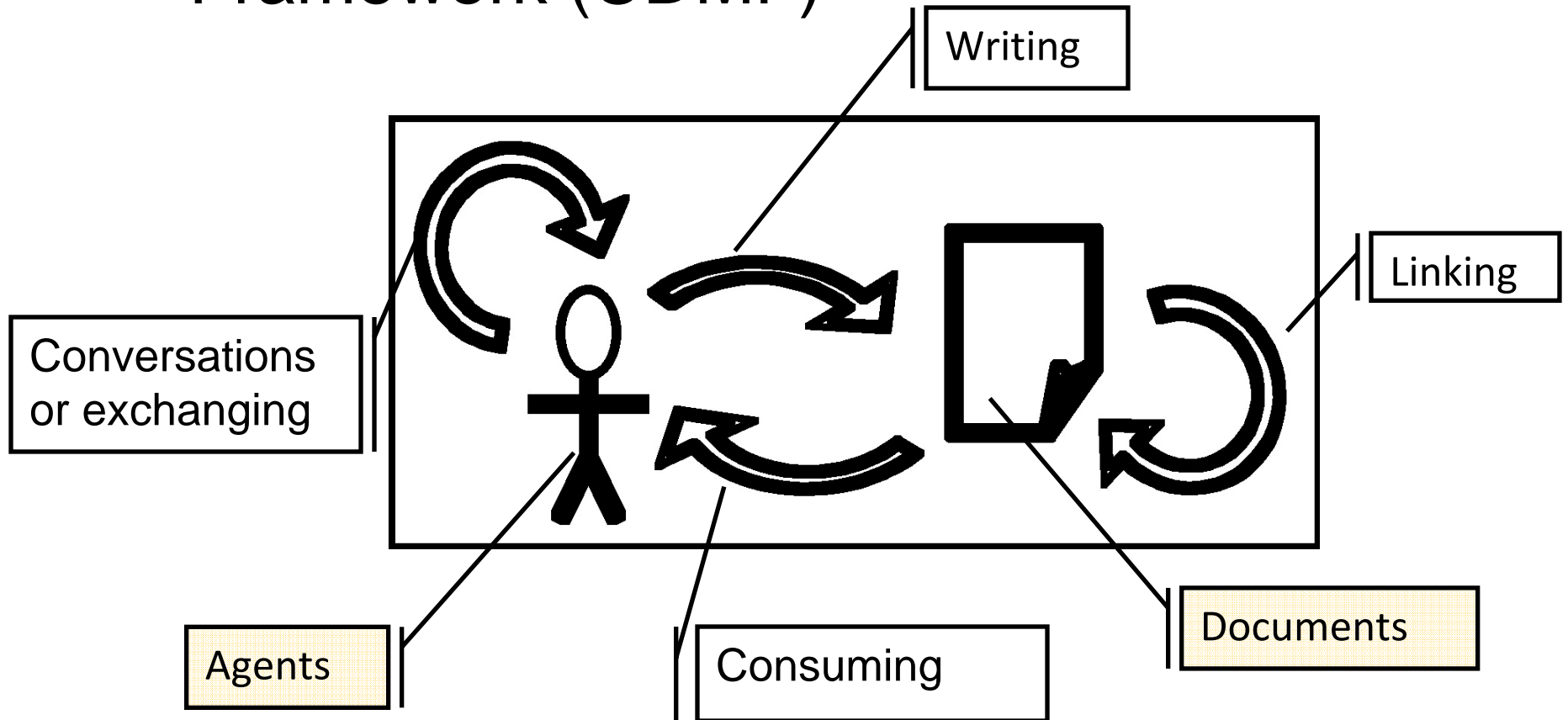
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# Collaborative Document Management Framework (CDMF)



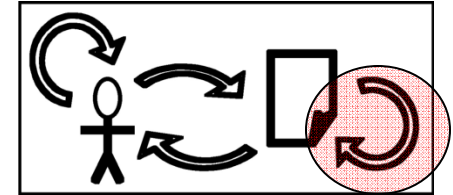
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# Collaborative Document Management Framework (CDMF)




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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 :

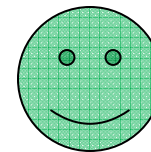
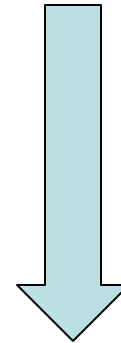
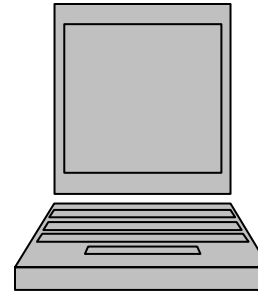
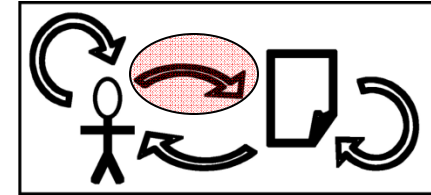
- “Atomic” information

...

- Structured text
- Continuous text

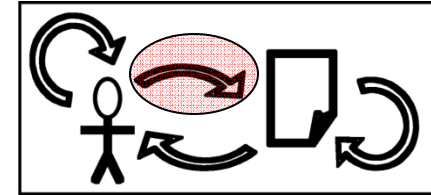
...



- Photos or videos



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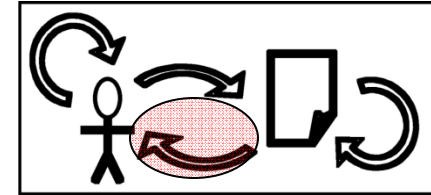
# Writing comments





- 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

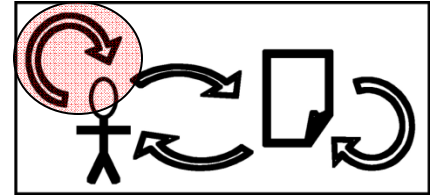
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# Consumption





- 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 ? 

# 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

# 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 “better” question: How should society discuss the law?

(Hypothesis: the more people “talk” about the law, the more  
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## BE CAREFUL !

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# I'm sorry I don't have all the answers...

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

# Partial bibliography

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# Merci !

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