Invitation message to 4th Joint Symposium

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The degree of public presentation of legal information can be a barometer of whether a specific country is a law-governed or not. Moreover, great development of an information society and economic activities are strongly asking for quick and exact circulation of legal information. The measure for legal information is also a certain kind of the national strategy in itself.

In the scene of international dealings, if the legal system of an other party country are not known (i.e. he structure of a judicial system, the administrative regulations of everything that are applied to dealings, the judicial precedent of a court that dealt with the related problem), business companies would be not able to establish their business strategy and carry out their risk management.

International evaluation of a specific country may be measured, by whether or how the legal information of the country is open and available.

It has also become possible to receive legal information required for everyday life of a common member of society. This is having big influence also on ordinary people's life style.

Under these circumstances, governments in the world, the legal information company, the scientific organization etc. have built and exhibited various legal information databases. The statutes and judgments are the information as the first resource. Such information can be generated from only a government organization, the legislation Diet and a court. Therefore, these organizations serve their own legal resources by themselves.

Also in Japan, the information dispatch from a government organization, the Supreme Court, a local self-governing body, etc. prospers at last. Here, the accuracy of the data itself will be thought most as important. On the other hand, the commercial database and the scientific site have the social function to offer the information as the first resource. For example, statutes, administrative regulations, judgments may be included.

In the 3rd joint symposium (in May, 2000), discussion was made focusing on the function and role of commercial database.

In the 4th joint symposium, we would like to argue also about the function and role which legal information database, focusing on the social roles of academic legal databases. Especially, if use of the remote lecture using the Internet will spread, the legal database system will have much more importance to design and construction for legal education itself. We would like to argue also about this point. Being based on these viewpoints, SHIP project aims at construction of the platform of a social science system database, as the actual proof application, applies the technology of XML and is building the various information systems of a law field.

For example, bilingual automatic management systems of domestic and foreign statutes, automatic replacement systems, automatic statutes management system by historical method and privacy information under judgment are contained in products of SHIP Project. It is expected that these serve as important teaching materials also in the law education using the future Internet. We would like to make various proposals at this symposium based on such experience.

For our symposium, we invited Professor Peter Martin (Cornell Law School: United States of America) and the professor Graham Greenleaf (AustLII: Australia). They are both one of the most famous authorities on the legal database of the world. Cornell's system points to a distributed database system. On the other hand, the system of AustLII points to the concentrated management