

**Nottingham Law School, Centre for Legal Education**  
**Conference 16-17 June 2017**  
**LEGAL EDUCATION, LEGAL PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Additional session: room 3602, Saturday, 10am.**

**Raj Kumar: Online Legal Information System in Indian Environment: A Road Map to Provide Free Access to Legal Information Resources (Saturday, 10am)**

### **Biography**

Dr. Raj Kumar  
Librarian, St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India  
& Commonwealth Fellow in UK

E-mail: [raajchd@gmail.com](mailto:raajchd@gmail.com)

Dr. Raj Kumar Bhardwaj is a Librarian at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi (India). Prior to his current position, he has served as Deputy Librarian at Nalanda University and Judges Library, High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh. He holds MCA, MLIS and M.Phil, PhD from University of Delhi. He has published 36 research articles in various reputed journals published by Emerald publishing, Taylor & Francis, Cambridge University Press, and has spoken at various international conferences. He has completed two major research projects. He is the regular reviewer for five international LIS journals. He is also the recipient of UNESCO fellowship for Information Management and Commonwealth Professional Fellowship. His areas of specializations are institutional repositories, evaluation of information systems, legal information system, open access, legal and legislative metadata, e-learning, social media analytics, text mining, scientometrics, semantic web and digital library development. Raj Kumar Bhardwaj can be contacted at: [raajchd@gmail.com](mailto:raajchd@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

A sustainable legal information system is required utmost to suit the information requirements of legal fraternity. In addition, value addition of the legal contents is also desired to suit the information needs of the legal fraternity. At present, no up-to-date, comprehensive and user-friendly open-access legal information system is available in India for legal research. Indian judiciary has initiated numbers of projects to organize legal information. Nevertheless, access to legal information in an organized manner has not been achieved. Therefore, a comprehensive survey was conducted in premier legal institutes in India to comprehend the requirements and problems faced by lawyers, research scholars and students in India. Subsequently, gender wise responses were also analyzed to develop the open access online legal information system suiting the female lawyers and research scholars. The online legal information system (OLIS) can be accessed: <http://www.olisindia.in>. The needs assessment survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire circulated among 750 respondents from eight institutions in Delhi. A total of 397 filled-in questionnaires were personally collected by the investigator, showing a response rate of 52.9 per cent. The findings of the study show that majority of the respondents felt they faced a number of problems in using online legal resources such as accessibility of legal information in legal resources, lack of online help features, description of legal information sources, search screen too confusing and poor website design. In addition, respondents highlighted that access instructions on the online resources are not clear. Lack of expertise and insufficient knowledge of information and communication technology in using legal databases are also major hurdles. The study revealed that the study legal information sources are not exploiting the full potential of Web 2.0 features. No study legal information source has provision to contribute the contents by user any time, irrespective of location, except OLIS. Besides this, the study discusses the metadata structures of the online resources which can be consulted to develop an online legal information system of any other country.