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Guide to AC028 - Records of the Center for Access to Justice & Technology

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Overview of the Collection

Creator:	IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Center for Access to Justice & Technology
Title:	Records of the Center for Access to Justice & Technology
Inclusive Dates:	1990-2005
Identification:	AC.028
Accessions:	2014.05
Extent:	2.5 linear feet (2 boxes)
Location:	Room 985, shelf 7C
Processor:	Jona Whipple, June 2016
Repository:	The IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Archives, 565 W Adams St, Chicago IL 60661
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History

The Center for Access to Justice and Technology (CAJT), formerly Justice Web Collaboratory, was formed at Chicago-Kent in 1999. The CAJT worked to make justice more accessible to the public by promoting the use of the Internet in the teaching, practice, and public access to the law. The CAJT conducted research, built software tools, taught classes, and supported faculty, staff, and student projects on access to justice and technology.

The first major focus of the CAJT was Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Litigants: A Consumer Based Approach, or the "Meeting the Needs" project. The project investigated barriers to access to justice facing self-represented litigants, applied system design methodology to redesign court processes, and built an Internet-based prototype for implementation by the courts. The first phase of the project began in August 2000 with a course taught by Professor Ron Staudt, the Justice Web Collaboratory Interprofessional Research Opportunity (IPRO). In the class, 13 law students from Chicago-Kent and 5 graduate design students from the IIT Institute of Design explored existing *pro se* assistance programs by observing the Chicago-Kent Advice Desk at the Richard J. Daley Center, and gathering information from litigants and courts in Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois; Delaware; Boulder County, Colorado; and Ventura County, California. Using data collected during the site visits, students identified the factors restricting access to justice and created solutions based on information structure, and finally constructed a communication document for their ideas to overcoming these factors. A second course in Systems Design and Structured Planning, taught by Charles Owen at the Institute of Design, began in January 2001, and consisted of 22 graduate-level students, including four law students from Chicago-Kent College of Law and 18 design students from the Institute of Design. In this second phase of the project, under the supervision of Professor Ron Staudt, Professor Charles Owen, and Edward B. Pedwell, the project team used the data gathered by the IPRO course and their own site visits to create the Access to Justice system. The full report on this project, *Access to Justice: Meeting the Needs Of Self-Represented Litigants*, was published in 2002 by Owen, Staudt, and Pedwell. The third



and final phase of the project was the development of A2J Author, a software tool that enabled non-technical authors to create web-based interfaces for document assembly. The software was developed in partnership with the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) and launched in 2005. The CAJT continues to manage and promote A2J Author.

In 2003, an Illinois Joint Simplified Dissolution of Marriage Prototype (“JSDM Prototype” was created. The prototype was custom-designed software that provided a web-based interface for completion of the forms required for joint simplified dissolution of marriage in Illinois. In 2004, the Self-Help Web Center (SHWC), a help desk located on the 6th floor of the Circuit Court of Cook County at the Richard J. Daley Center, was created and launched. The SHWC serves as a starting point for *pro se* litigants and assists visitors in finding legal information and completing online legal forms.

Scope and Contents

Series I: The Access to Justice Project series is arranged into five subseries, each arranged chronologically. This series contains materials pertaining to each phase of the Access to Justice Project.

Subseries I. The Administrative subseries consists of correspondence related to all phases of the Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs project. Also included are financial materials, such as grant applications, budget materials, and expense reports. Quarterly reports of the phases of the project, curriculum planning materials for the IPRO and ID courses, and concept materials are also arranged within this subseries.

Subseries II. The IPRO 380 Course Materials subseries includes research and documentation of the activities of each of the five teams of students in the Fall 2000 IPRO course. Final reports from each team are arranged within team materials, with a final report on the first phase of the Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs project is arranged at the end of the subseries. Administrative materials for the course, such as attendance lists and syllabi, are arranged at the beginning of the subseries.

Subseries III. The ID 589 Course Materials subseries includes course planning materials and handouts, as well as materials from design workshops and detailed student work on the Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs project. Also included in this subseries are materials from an in-progress review of the project, as well as final presentation materials.

Subseries IV. The Access to Justice Design subseries includes materials related to the design of a prototype software based on the research of the IPRO and ID courses. Planning materials for this phase of the project are included, as well as several prototypes with design revision notes. A report on the first two phases of the Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs project is arranged at the beginning of the series.

Subseries V. The Published Materials subseries includes both draft and published versions of the full report on the findings of the IPRO and ID courses, *Access to Justice: Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Litigants*. Also included is a folder of correspondence related to the publication and printing of this material.

Series II. The Conferences series is arranged into two subseries.



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Subseries I. The International Conference on Substantive Technology in the Law School subseries includes material from the first four annual conferences, which were attended by CAJT founders. The bulk of the material in this subseries is related to the second annual conference, which was hosted at the Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1992. This subseries includes information on conference planning and presentation materials, as well as correspondence related to each conference.

Subseries II. The Judicial Decision Support Systems Symposium (JDSS3) series includes materials from the third annual conference, which was held at Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2001. This subseries includes information related to conference planning, as well as presentation materials.

Series III. The Self-Help Web Center materials include research pertaining to the establishment of a web resource for *pro se* litigants in the Daley Center, to be managed by Chicago-Kent College of Law students as a part of the Advice Desk. The series includes an overview of the Advice Desk, grant and funding materials, and a training manual for Self-Help Web Center employees.

Series IV. The Justice Web Collaboratory series includes a small amount of material related to the redesign of the Justice Web Collaboratory website, as well as some financial materials.

Restrictions

None

Separations

One VHS tape and two audiocassettes related to site visit research for the Access to Justice IPRO project were removed and placed in audiovisual storage.

Provenance

Records transferred by Professor Ron Staudt via Nick Brankle and the office of the Center for Access to Justice and Technology at Chicago-Kent in June of 2014 (Acc. 2014.05).

Related Collections

Records of the Center for Law and Computers, 1984-1999 (AC027)
Records of the Illinois Technology Center, 1999-2005 (AC029)

Subject Headings

Owen, Charles L.
Staudt, Ronald W.
Pedwell, Edward B.
Center for Access to Justice and Technology (CAJT)--Conference proceedings.
Due process of law



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Pro se representation--Illinois
Pro se representation--United States
Law--Study and teaching
Internet in education
Web-based instruction
Illinois Institute of Technology--Institute of Design.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series and 7 subseries:

- I. Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs Project
 - i. Administrative
 - ii. IPRO 380 Course Materials
 - iii. ID 589 Course Materials
 - iv. Access to Justice Design
 - v. Published Material
- II. Conferences
 - i. International Conference on Substantive Technology in the Law School
 - ii. Judicial Decision Support Systems
- III. Self-Help Web Center
- IV. Justice Web Collaboratory

Each series is arranged chronologically where possible.

Container List

Series I. Access to Justice/Meeting the Needs Project, 1999-2003, 1.67 linear ft **Subseries I. Administrative, 1999-2003**

Box	Folder		
1	1	Correspondence	1999-2001
1	2	Grant materials	2000
1	3	Grant materials	2000
1	4	Grant materials	2000-2001
1	5	Grant award materials	2000
1	6	Concept paper	2000
1	7	Curriculum planning materials	2000



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1	8	Budget	2000
1	9	Expense reports	2001-2003
1	10	Quarterly reports	2000-2001
1	11	Quarterly reports	2001
1	12	Quarterly reports	2001-2002

Subseries II. IPRO 380 Course Materials, 2000

1	13	Student surveys	2000
1	14	Attendance rosters	2000
1	15	Team contact information	2000
1	16	Syllabus materials	2000
2	1	Team 1 – Research plans	2000
2	2	Team 1 – Research materials	2000
2	3	Team 1 – Research summaries	2000
2	4	Team 1 – Design factors	2000
2	5	Team 1 – Audio transcripts	2000
2	6	Team 1 – “Mapping the Domain” report	2000
2	7	Team 2 – Research plans	2000
2	8	Team 2 – “Mapping the Domain” report	2000
2	9	Team 3 – Research materials	2000
2	10	Team 3 – “Mapping the Domain” report	2000
2	11	Team 4 – Assignments	2000
2	12	Team 5 – Research materials	2000
2	13	IPRO Phase 1 presentation slides	2000

Subseries III. ID 589 Course Materials, 2001

3	1	Course planning materials	2001
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3	2	Course handouts	2001
3	3	System design workshop materials	2001
3	4	Student projects	2001
3	5	In-progress reviews	2001
3	6	Design factors	2001
3	7	Solution elements	2001
3	8	Design factor & solution element materials	2001
3	9	Final presentation materials	2001

Subseries IV. Access to Justice Design, 2001

4	1	Prototype development planning materials	2001
4	2	Access to Justice presentation slides	2001
4	3	A2J Prototypes	2001
4	4	A2J Prototypes	2001

Subseries V. Published Material, 2001-2003

4	5	<i>Access to Justice: Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Litigants</i> book draft	2001
4	6	<i>Access to Justice: Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Litigants</i> book	2002
4	7	Book publishing correspondence	2001-2003

Series II. Conferences, 1990-2001, .63 linear ft

Subseries I. International Conference on Substantive Technology in the Law School, 1990-1996

5	1	First annual conference – Correspondence	1990
5	2	First annual conference – Memoranda	1990
5	3	First annual conference – Participant lists	1990
5	4	First annual conference – Schedule	1990
5	5	First annual conference – Interim Committee Report	1991



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5	6	Second annual conference – Correspondence	1991
5	7	Second annual conference – Correspondence	1992
5	8	Second annual conference – Correspondence	1992
5	9	Second annual conference – Correspondence	1993
5	10	Second annual conference – Form letters	1991-1993
5	11	Second annual conference – Memoranda	1991-1992
5	12	Second annual conference – Financial materials	1992
5	13	Second annual conference – Attendee lists	1992
5	14	Second annual conference – Program materials	1992
5	15	Second annual conference – Report of proceedings	1992
5	16	Second annual conference – Evaluations	1992
5	17	Third annual conference – Correspondence	1992-1994
5	18	Third annual conference – Program materials	1994
6	1	Fourth annual conference – Correspondence	1996
6	2	Fourth annual conference – Program materials	1996

Subseries II. Judicial Decision Support Systems, 2001

6	3	Third symposium – Planning materials	2001
6	4	Third symposium – Schedules	2001
6	5	Third symposium – Presentation slides	2001

Series III. Justice Web Collaboratory, 2001-2002, .21 linear ft

6	6	Financial reports	2001-2002
6	7	Financial materials	2001-2002
6	8	Website update materials	c. 2001

Series IV. Self-Help Web Center, 2000-2005, .21 linear ft

6	9	Advice desk overview	2000
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6	10	Advice desk handbook	2000
6	11	Advice desk technology research	2000-2003
6	12	Grant materials	2004-2005
6	13	Planning materials	2004
6	14	Training manual	2004