

# Law Student Views on the Principles of Legal Research Website: An User Experience Study

**Abstract:** The Principles of Legal Research Website of the University of Ottawa's Brian Dickson Law Library is a bilingual (English and French) online learning tool for all first year students in both Common Law and Civil Law. <sup>1</sup> Law librarians apply this e-learning website to facilitate teaching components such as student assignments, and assessments. This user experience study aims to investigate law students' real experience with the system. Their feedback will be used for future development planning as well as analysing user behaviour trends. The authors investigate the following aspects: accuracy of information, interface design, navigation system, Web 2.0, social media, and smartphone version.

**Keywords:** User experience study, E-learning website, Human-Computer Interaction

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Principles of Legal Research Website was first developed in the summer of 2009 as a joint project between the librarians at the Brian Dickson Law Library and the Faculty of Common Law (English) at the University of Ottawa. The Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa is divided into two sections of Common Law and Civil Law. For a number of years, librarians at the Law Library have been actively involved in the development and delivery of mandatory legal research courses that all students in their first year of law school (both Common Law and Civil Law) must take. However, in recent years, this task had become increasingly challenging, as student enrolment has increased but faculty numbers remained static.

The Library and the Faculty thus approached the University of Ottawa's Centre for University Teaching (CUT), a centre which provides consultation services to the university's faculties regarding teaching practices, to request a grant to help fund the development of a unique mix of blended and community learning strategies in legal research. In the summer of 2009 this grant

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<sup>1</sup> English site - [http://web5.uottawa.ca/www2/rl-lr/eng/learning\\_modules.html](http://web5.uottawa.ca/www2/rl-lr/eng/learning_modules.html)

French site - [http://web5.uottawa.ca/www2/rl-lr/fra/modules\\_apprentissage.html](http://web5.uottawa.ca/www2/rl-lr/fra/modules_apprentissage.html)

was approved, and the Principles of Legal Research online modules were conceived as one part of this hybrid learning model.<sup>2</sup>

The goals of the modules are as follows:

1. Free up class time for legal research strategies.
2. Increase student-instructor interaction.
3. Increase student self-assessment opportunities
4. Accelerate theory-to-practice transfer of knowledge.
5. Support professors delivering first-year seminars.
6. Reinforce students' capacity to undertake independent learning in both new and sub-topic areas required in legal profession.

In February 2011, The Law Library started working with the University of Ottawa's E-Learning Centre to move the modules out of our online course management system, Blackboard, and into a more accessible, open access version. Since the beginning of 2015, the law library has been working to upgrade the visual presence, programming languages, and other web elements in the Principles of Legal Research Website to conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG0) in order to reduce barriers for people with disabilities.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study uses a quantitative method, with a 10 question survey (9 multiple choice and 1 open ended question) to evaluate user experience. A group of 34 enrolled law students from both Common Law and Civil Law sections participated in this user experience study, with both Anglophone and Francophone participants were represented in this data collection.

## **3. RESEACH ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

The University of Ottawa's Research Ethics Board has decided that this study does not need a research ethical approval, as defined by the Canada's Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS 2), because this project is an evaluation of a service and quality assurance study.

## **4. USER EXPERIENCE STUDY: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

This user experience study aims to investigate the real experience of law students with the Principles of Legal Research Website of the University of Ottawa's Brian Dickson Law Library. Their feedback will be used for future development planning as well as analysing user behaviour trends. In this section, authors review the academic context applied to this user experience study. Some real examples are given to clarify the actual practices. Finally, the authors will analyze the findings from the questionnaire through a multidisciplinary lens.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, visit <http://web5.uottawa.ca/www2/rl-lr/eng/about.html>

## COMPUTER-HUMAN INTERACTION: CROSS-CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY DESIGN

Computer-Human Interaction research demonstrates that humans relate to interactive products in various different ways. Demographic and cultural elements such as nationality, geography, language, gender, age, sex, education and etc. tend to contribute to these differences in interactions. Marcus and Gould (2012, 342)<sup>1</sup> suggested that culture should be thought through from the initial design process, so that the computer-based products can later be fine tailored to target end-users. For example, people whose first language is written and read from left-to-right (like English and French) need to have a scroll tab on the right hand side when navigating websites. This scroll tab position coordinates with their eyes movement; but it is totally opposite for those used to an Arabic script, for instance. Those used to Arabic would need to have the scroll tab displayed on the left hand side of the websites since Arabic languages are written and read from right-to-left.

Educational institutions should take this cross-cultural technology design theory into consideration seriously when designing a computer-based product. Canada is a culturally diverse country and universities and colleges are enrolling more and more international students. The application of cross-cultural technology design theory, for Canada, can therefore ensure that every student will have a positive online learning experience.

Because the University of Ottawa is a bilingual university (English and French), the Principles of Legal Research Website presents all information in both official languages. Content has to be accurately translated in both official languages and every webpage has to display a link or button to the other language in the top menu bar, the most obvious location. This menu bar will display on every page and the scroll tab is positioned on the right hand side. This is an example how the learning modules are customized specifically for law students who are studying either in English or French or both languages at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law.

Later on in this paper, readers will note the second question in the survey, "*The Principles of Legal Research Website contains accurate and useful information?*", asks participants about the accuracy and usefulness of information and the fourth question, "*When you were looking for specific information, you found the navigational system (e.g. menu bar, drop-down option, table of contents) in the Principles of Legal Research Website to be well designed?*", asks about the navigational system presented on the site. These questions reflect the cross-cultural technology design concept.

### USABILITY

User Experience (UX) is emphasized in the practice of Interaction Design. The UX is a study on how an interactive product is used by targeted end-users in a real situation (Sharp, Rogers and Preece 2007, 15)<sup>2</sup>. Do the users have a good experience or feeling about the product? Is it difficult to use? Did users use the product for the purpose in which it was originally designed? An interactive product can be a kiosk, website, database, applications, hardware, or software. In this user experience study, the "usability" is only an element of the User Experience being investigated.

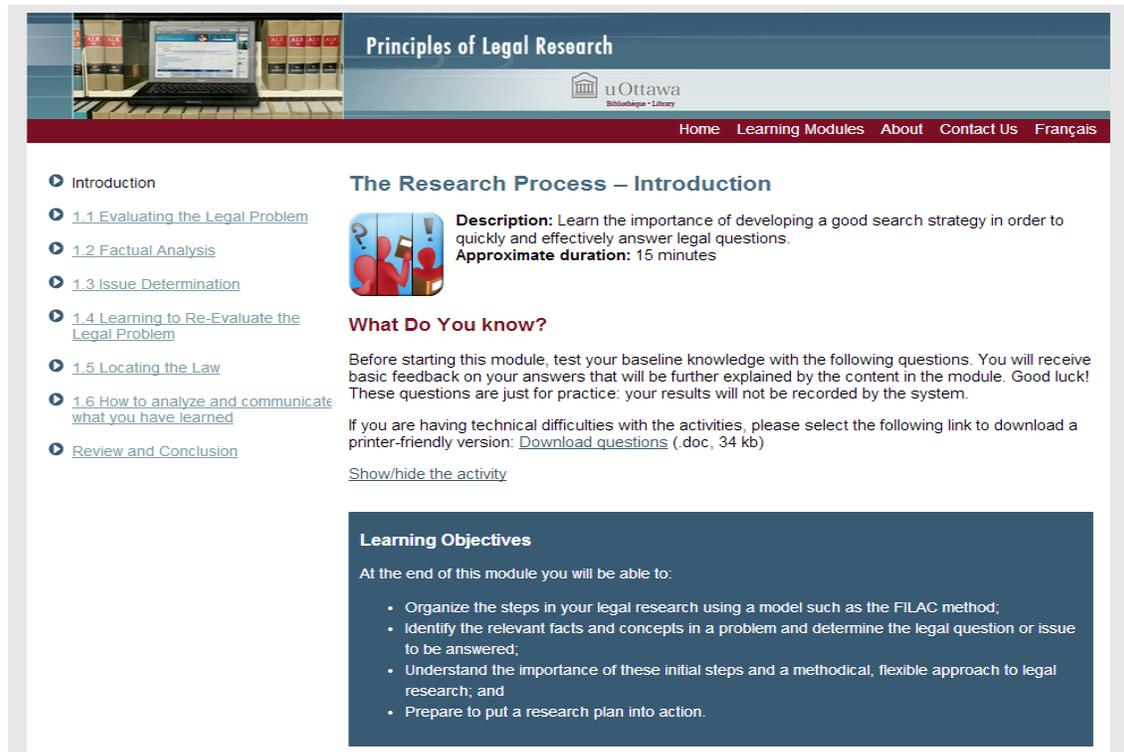
“Usability” is a theory and practise that examines how users can use an interactive product effectively and satisfactorily to achieve specified tasks with existing functionality (Te’eni, Carey, and Zhang 2007, 4)<sup>3</sup>. An ideal usability scenario is when a person uses a product for their own needs, while also achieving the product’s purpose, with either little or no challenges. For example, online income tax filing applications should be designed and programed to operate with the least amount of steps possible and should automatically calculate one’s tax return amount every time new claim amounts are entered. The task should be quick and easy to accomplish. Usability has been applied to the Principles of Legal Research Website in many ways. One example of this is that the information on the site has been organized by topic. Each topic is separated into its own learning module. On the homepage, users will see icons, short introductory sentences, and automatic expanding and collapsing boxes under the title, “View Table of Contents”. When one click’s on this text, a list of sub-headings will appear in the expanding space underneath. This technical design was established to ensure a cleaner look to the homepage and to present a hierarchical schema to the subject areas. It is also expected to help users in searching for information by subject. In the questionnaires, the third question, “*Overall, the Principles of Legal Research Website presents an interface (e.g. graphics, layout, colours) that stimulates your learning?*” and the ninth question, “*The Principles of Legal Research Website is easy to use. In other words, you can explore on your own without formal workshops or tutorials in class?*” reflect the usability theory.



Figure 1. Automatic expanding and collapsing content box

## INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE: NAVIGATION SYSTEM

The third focus is the “navigation system”, a curious part of all information based interactive products. Morville and Rosenfeld (2006, 115)<sup>4</sup> state that navigation system on the Web can help users avoid getting lost and being frustrated, especially when they have to search information in a large website. The navigation system concerns the user’s capacity to locate certain pages, paragraphs, text, or sections of information they are seeking. Navigation systems on the Web can be in various styles such as search box, menu bar, A-Z index, site map, etc. If users cannot find what they are looking for, or have to spend a long time to find information they need, they may then move on to a competitor’s product that offers better service. The navigation system of the Information Architecture foundation of the site is reflected in the fourth question in the questionnaire, “*When you were looking for specific information, you found the navigational system (e.g. menu bar, drop-down option, table of contents) in the Principles of Legal Research Website to be well designed?*”, The Principles of Legal Research Website contains many different styles of navigational tools including text links, global and local menu bars, drop-down list, and visualization. The picture below shows the two styles of navigational tools. The global menu bar on the top of the page stays at the same location on each page. The local menu bar on the left side, is customized to match each sub-topic of learning modules. This menu only displays after users have selected a module from the homepage.



The screenshot displays the 'Principles of Legal Research' website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the title 'Principles of Legal Research' and the 'uOttawa' logo. Below the header is a red navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Learning Modules', 'About', 'Contact Us', and 'Français'. On the left side, there is a local menu bar with a list of topics: 'Introduction', '1.1 Evaluating the Legal Problem', '1.2 Factual Analysis', '1.3 Issue Determination', '1.4 Learning to Re-Evaluate the Legal Problem', '1.5 Locating the Law', '1.6 How to analyze and communicate what you have learned', and 'Review and Conclusion'. The main content area is titled 'The Research Process – Introduction' and includes a description, a 'What Do You know?' section with a quiz, and a 'Learning Objectives' section with a list of goals.

Figure 2. Global (top) and local (left) menu bars: Navigational tools.

## LIBRARY SCIENCES: PROJECT EVALUATION

For libraries, when a new project has been implemented into library service and operations, an evaluation process or performance measurement should be conducted, after an appropriate timeframe, to measure the effectiveness of the new project. Herson, Dugan, and Matthews (2014, 3)<sup>5</sup> state that “evaluation is a decision-making tool that is intended to assist library staff in allocating necessary resources to those activities and services”. In some cases, project evaluators may come up with an intervention plan based on evidences they have found. Evaluators will present the final report to the library director or stakeholders, which can certainly help in making future decisions.

The University of Ottawa’s Brian Dickson Law Library has conducted this user experience study on the Principles of Legal Research Website hoping to find the system’s strengths and weaknesses, in order to improve the online learning modules for the benefit of our law students’ learning experiences. Al-Hakim and Xu’s case study research (2005, 316)<sup>6</sup> shows that IT professionals and system users have different points of view when it comes to data quality. IT specialists are often concerned more with technical issues and believe emerging technologies will be able to help produce high-quality data by itself, whereas system users believe some sorts of human direct action is more likely to control the quality of information. These different attitudes inspired the authors to create the second question in this user experience study survey, “*The Principles of Legal Research Website contains accurate and useful information?*”. Since the e-learning site was originally built jointly by the systems team (IT specialists) and the content team (law librarians), it is important to the authors to seek the system users’ opinions to determine whether the site contains the desired amount of high-quality information.

When looking at the questions contained the project’s questionnaire, the fifth question relates specifically to social media, “*In your opinion, should the Principles of Legal Research Website introduce Web 2.0 functions like RSS, Blogging, Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, and Mendeley)?*”, the sixth question asks, “*Would you use a mobile (Smartphone) version of the Principles of Legal Research Website if it was available in the future?*”. Other questions relate to user behaviour situations, i.e. the seventh question, “*The Principles of Legal Research Website often provides links to external resources. Do you now prefer to read from an electronic version rather than print if both options are available?*” and the eighth question, “*If you have a question regarding content in the Principles of Legal Research Website, you are more comfortable sending an e-mail to law librarians or instructors rather than meeting with them in person?*”. The purpose of these questions is to evaluate targeted user needs before the Law Library invests more time and resources into future online development.

## 5. FINDINGS

This section discusses the survey questions (also listed in Figure 3) and findings. The initial question examines law student demographics based on their enrolment status. (Question 1, *Student Demographics: You are currently a student in ...?*) There were 28 responses from Common Law students, 3 from Droit Civil students and 3 students from the National Program.<sup>3</sup> Out of 34 participants, 22 indicated that they were full time students, whereas 12 chose not to answer this question. When asked about nationality, 21 law students indicated they were Canadian or currently held permanent resident status. Certain participants (13) preferred not to specify their legal status or nationality.

Question 2 probes for information about the accuracy and usefulness of material contained within the Principle of Legal Research Website (Question 2, *The Principles of Legal Research Website contains accurate and useful information?*). The majority (52 percent) of participants agreed strongly that the e-learning site presents accurate and useful information, while 39 percent indicated they somewhat agree. Only 3 percent and 6 percent of respondents specified somewhat disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Overall, the findings were positive.

1.	Student Demographics: You are currently a student in ...?
2.	The Principles of Legal Research Website contains accurate and useful information?
3.	Overall, the Principles of Legal Research Website presents an interface (e.g. graphics, layout, colours) that stimulates your learning?
4.	When you were looking for specific information, you found the navigational system (e.g. menu bar, drop-down option, table of contents) in the Principles of Legal Research Website to be well designed?
5.	In your opinion, should the Principles of Legal Research Website introduce Web 2.0 functions like RSS, Blogging, Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, and Mendeley)?
6.	Would you use a mobile (Smartphone) version of the Principles of Legal Research Website if it was available in the future?
7.	The Principles of Legal Research Website often provides links to external resources. Do you now prefer to read from an electronic version rather than print if both options are available?
8.	If you have a question regarding content in the Principles of Legal Research Website, you are more comfortable sending an e-mail to law librarians or instructors rather than meeting with them in person?
9.	The Principles of Legal Research Website is easy to use? In other words, you can explore on your own without formal workshops or tutorials in class.
10.	Other comments?

Figure 3. Survey questions

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<sup>3</sup> The National Program (JD-LL) is available to persons completed a Common Law or Civil Law degree. Students can obtain a degree of another legal system with one additional year of study.

The third question (Question 3, “*Overall, the Principles of Legal Research Website presents an interface (e.g. graphics, layout, colours) that stimulates your learning?*”) inquired about design aspects such as graphics, layout, colours that are presenting on the Site. The authors sought to look closely at those elements to see whether these design aspects were stimulating for the student’s learning experience. The user experience study showed that 42 percent strongly agree and 36 percent somewhat agreed with this statement. Only 6 percent indicate they somewhat disagree and 10 percent strongly disagree. However, 6 percent of all participants chose not applicable as their response, which did not provide a statistical value for this user experience study. There is perhaps a need for this question to provide a more detailed meaning of “stimulating interface” in the questionnaire.

Next we investigate the law students’ experience with the website based on their own real life scenario, while they were looking for specific information. (Question 4, “*When you were looking for specific information, you found the navigational system (e.g. menu bar, drop-down option, table of contents) in the Principles of Legal Research Website to be well designed?*”). Did they find the navigational system to be well designed? Student feedback was positive. The majority agree (42 percent for strongly agree, 39 percent for somewhat agree) with few disagreeing at 10 percent, for both somewhat disagree and strongly disagree). Only a few people (3) skipped this question.

Question five asks student whether the site should be introducing some sorts of Web 2.0 functionality, which would basically allow students to generate content directly into the site. (Question 5, “*In your opinion, should the Principles of Legal Research Website introduce Web 2.0 functions like RSS, Blogging, Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, and Mendeley)?*”). The addition of this aspect would allow for the creation of discussion forums and greater interaction on the site. The answers we received show that the majority of participants (64 percent) think that the addition of Web 2.0 design would not add to the value of the e-learning site. Of the respondents, 23 percent supported the Web 2.0 idea, while 13 percent chose to select the option of don’t know. The fact that though the participants were generally of a tech savvy generation, but did not greatly favor further technical innovation is a great interest to the authors. An in-depth explanation for this is offered in the discussion section of this paper.

The next question tested the user’s desire to view the website from their smartphone. Currently, the Principles of Legal Research Website only has two versions; the desktop/laptop and tablet version. (Question 6, “*Would you use a mobile (Smartphone) version of the Principles of Legal Research Website if it was available in the future?*”) Responses to this question revealed that 60 percent of respondents would like a mobile version of the site created, while 33 percent were against the suggestion. Only 7 percent did not indicated a preferences (don’t know).

The Principles of Legal Research Website often refers to external print and digital materials. Responses to question 7 (“*The Principles of Legal Research Website often provides links to external resources. Do you now prefer to read from an electronic version rather than print if both options are available?*”) showed that 73 percent of participants preferred to read from an electronic version rather than a print one, even if both options are available through our library. However, 17 percent valued print collection for their additional reading more than electronic versions. On the other hand only 10 percent of those responding provided no statement.

Question 8 (“*If you have a question regarding content in the Principles of Legal Research Website, you are more comfortable sending an e-mail to law librarians or instructors rather than meeting with them in person?*”) creates a scenario where students had a question about content in the Principles of Legal Research Website. Are they more comfortable sending an e-mail to a law librarian or instructor or would they rather attempt a face-to-face enquiry? More than half of the respondents, 48 percent somewhat disagreed and 17 percent strongly disagreed, suggesting they preferred face-to-face communication.

The next question focused on how easy the site was to use, assuming users can explore the whole site on their own without formal workshops or tutorials in class. (Question 9, “*The Principles of Legal Research Website is easy to use? In other words, you can explore on your own without formal workshops or tutorials in class.*”) Almost half of the respondents, 48 percent agreed strongly demonstrating a common belief that they can learn to use the site independently. While 21 percent specified that they somewhat agreed, 17 percent somewhat disagreed, and 10 percent strongly disagreed. 4 percent provided no view. Overall, half of the participants felt they still need some sort of introductory classes.

Finally, the open-ended question (Question 10, “*Other comments?*”) asked students to provide any comments based on their own learning experience. Only one student provided a comment which read, “I thought it was very useful first year”.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Results from the survey indicate various strengths and weaknesses of the Principles of Legal Research Website. Demographically, survey participants were mostly enrolled as full time students and held Canadian nationality or permanent legal resident status. However, 13 students did not specify their nationalities. It is possible they were concerned about their privacy and negative consequences of sharing personal information. The unidentified nationality information in this survey would not affect the essential user experience study analysis, however, the authors may have missed a chance to investigate users’ experiences based on cultural differences in this paper, assuming those 13 students were international students.

A strength of this e-learning site is its stimulating interface design, which helps students have a positive experience during their interactions with the site. There are graphics to make pages look attractive. Graphics are a key element in any text-based websites. In this case, it helps liven-up potentially dry legal-style text. The content is not packed tightly into a page like in books. Information is clearly divided into different subpages and paragraphs.

Another finding is that the navigational system in the site has been designed and implemented effectively. Users can search the whole site and find specific information quickly, even though there are many pages with both French and English content, which can make for rather a large site. A significant challenge is that it is not easy to manage both languages; we have to make sure that they are coordinated and translated correctly. The development team had to go through complex files and folders to locate a particular page. For users, it can be a similar experience, which is why they have depended so much on the navigational system to locate information. This is the reasoning behind the main content page of the Principles of Legal Research Website,

showing icons and a brief description of each chapter right up front, acting much like the table of content in a book. In addition, every content page has a bottom link, allowing users to change current language content between French and English, easily with a single click. This option is extremely useful when students want to know legal terminologies in both languages.

Some findings of the survey have shown that the majority of law students do not want Web 2.0 functionality (user-generated information found in social media) to be embedded in the e-learning site. This finding might suggest that students have drawn a clear line between academic sites and sites they interact with for other purposes. As we know, much of Web 2.0 is often used for social purposes. Students may want to separate their private lives and academic learning. The idea that students do not see a benefit to implementing Web 2.0 functionality into an advanced e-learning site, is very interesting to the authors, as it suggests we should look carefully at which technologies to add to the learning modules. Just because a new technology exists, does not necessarily mean it will be appreciated by our users in an e-learning context.

Mobile computing is an emerging trend among library users for accessing information like e-books, e-journals and databases. We may notice that many scholarly publishers are advancing their products and services with smartphone devices. Smartphones are more affordable, lighter weight, and smaller than laptop or desktop computers. However, the small screen of smart phones limits what people can navigate. These screens are still good enough however to read short texts, listen to music, or watch movies, which could be a reasons, why 60 percent of the law students surveyed supported the idea of a mobile version of the Principles of Legal Research Website. The interface design would use the same theme color and texts, but the navigational layout will need to be very different to ensure it is suitable and compatible with the small screen of a smartphone. The interface design is likely to consist of drop-down content boxes sitting on top each other. It will only show content for the selected content box, one at a time. This design will function requiring minimal clicks or screen slides from users and should be easy to navigate with one or two fingers.

The next discussion item is about the user's preference between readings print and online material. There is no surprise that the majority of participants indicated their personal preference for online resources. Currently, there is so much content available online and new digital content is constantly being produced. In law, some legal primary resources from the federal and provincial governments have been distributed to the public only in an online format, as has been seen with the discontinuance of the printed copy of the Canada Gazette, which was effective as of April, 1, 2014 (Canada Gazette, 2014)<sup>7</sup>. Today, the definition of a good law student or lawyer includes having advanced legal database and Internet searching skills, which can help a lawyer win a case or provide accurate legal advice. For law students, online research skills provide an advantage in writing their research papers. The results from this survey question link to the next question on communication behaviour between students and law librarians. Law students still feel strongly that when they have a question, they prefer to ask a law librarian in person, rather than by e-mail. Despite the existence of modern technology, users still value face-to-face interaction. This reminds us that the library as a physical space is still an essential service. Libraries cannot simply discontinue in-person service or eliminate physical collections and move to a completely virtual model. Integrating both online learning and in-class teaching is most likely the best formula for the Law Library.

In the final multiple choice question, asking about users overall experience with these learning modules, we were looking for whether users were learning and navigating the site independently. The response we received was very positive. Most students are confident that they can use the site without having strong technical skills and legal research knowledge. It was our original plan to have modules for the first year students in law, who are just starting enter into a new field and did not yet know legal content very well. In this user experience study we learned that system design and information organisation are very important. Information has to be structured logically from basic to intermediate, and then to the advanced level.

## **7. CHALLENGES**

This user experience study had some challenges with the number of participants. There was not a large number of participants, as compared with the total number of students in various law programs at the University of Ottawa. Due to the academic cycle, the authors did not have a lot of time to recruit more participants. We had to conduct this survey in a timely manner, right after the legal research courses ended, to guarantee participants still had a fresh memory of the website. Future research could use this study as a pilot, recruiting a larger cohort of participants.

## **8. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

The University of Ottawa's Law Library has a plan to develop the mobile version of these learning modules as a priority task, especially now that we have feedback on the need for a mobile version. Currently, users can only access the content from desktop, laptop, and tablet. The current mobile version makes the text appear too small on smartphone devices. In the near future, users will see some interactive features like video tutorials. At the time of writing, we were also working on improving our learning module to meet the web accessibility standards, especially ensuring users who use our site with text-to-speech software programs will not have any technical troubles and misunderstand our content.

## **CONCLUSION**

A user experience study can help to prove how well an online product like the Principles of Legal Research Website of the University of Ottawa's Brian Dickson Law Library is actually received. The results and feedback from this user experience study survey can be used to build a strategic plan to improve the product. This user experience study has had some unexpected results, such as students' reluctance to have social media on the same system. Social media is looked at more for social and personal usage. Another unexpected result is that a majority of students still believe in seeking help from law librarians or instructors by having face-to-face communication, being more fruitful than only contacting them through e-mail.

Overall, students found the Principles of Legal Research Website of the University of Ottawa's Brian Dickson Law Library to be very well produced, designed, and the content well organized. There are some strong elements of the website, including the navigation system, look and feel, and quality of content. Finally, this study helped the authors to understand the trend of mobile

computing in the Law Library service, based on our finding that many participants were very enthusiastic to see our modules available on their smartphones.

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## Biographies

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Channarong Intahchomphoo holds a bachelor's degree (Chiang Mai University, Thailand) and an English/French bilingual master's degree (University of Ottawa, Canada) both in Information Studies. His fields of research and current projects are: information and law, information organizations and emerging technologies, human-computer interaction, social media in indigenous communities, and electronic business (technologies, management, e-society) for vulnerable populations. He is also pursuing a doctorate in E-Business with the research topic of "Social Media in Indigenous Communities in Ontario, Canada" at the University of Ottawa.

Ms. Margo Jeske (BA, MLS), Director, Brian Dickson Law Library, University of Ottawa.

Margo Jeske has a bachelor's degree in French translation (Queen's University) and a master's degree in Library Science (Western University). She worked for several years in federal government departments and agencies and at the Library of Parliament, before joining the Brian Dickson Law Library, University of Ottawa as the Library Director. Margo is an active member of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) and sits on the Law Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

Ms. Emily Landriault (BA, MIS), Law Librarian, Brian Dickson Law Library, University of Ottawa.

Emily Landriault holds a bachelor's degree in English (University of Guelph) and a master's degree in Library Studies (Dalhousie University). She has worked at legislative libraries, with time spent both at the Library of Parliament and at the Ontario Legislature. She came to the University of Ottawa as a reference librarian at the Brian Dickson Law Library and recently moved into a position as the Copyright Services Librarian for the university. Emily is an active member of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) and serves as the treasurer for the National Capital Association of Law Librarians (NCALL).

## Appendix 1: Questionnaire in English

**1. Student Demographics: You are currently a student in ...?**

- Common Law       Civil Law       National Program (JD/LLL)
- Full time       Part time
- 1st year       2<sup>nd</sup> year       3<sup>rd</sup> year       4<sup>th</sup> year       More
- Canadian or Permanent resident       International

**2. The Principles of Legal Research Website contains accurate and useful information?**

- Strongly disagree     Somewhat disagree     Somewhat agree     Strongly agree     Don't know

**3. Overall, the Principles of Legal Research Website presents an interface (e.g. graphics, layout, colours) that stimulates your learning?**

- Strongly disagree     Somewhat disagree     Somewhat agree     Strongly agree     Don't know

**4. When you were looking for specific information, you found the navigational system (e.g. menu bar, drop-down option, table of contents) in the Principles of Legal Research Website to be well designed?**

- Strongly disagree     Somewhat disagree     Somewhat agree     Strongly agree     Don't know

**5. In your opinion, should the Principles of Legal Research Website introduce Web 2.0 functions like RSS, Blogging, Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, and Mendeley)?**

- Yes       No       Don't know

**6. Would you use a mobile (Smartphone) version of the Principles of Legal Research Website if it was available in the future?**

- Yes       No       Don't know

**7. The Principles of Legal Research Website often provides links to external resources. Do you now prefer to read from an electronic version rather than print if both options are available?**

- Yes       No       Don't know

**8. If you have a question regarding content in the Principles of Legal Research Website, you are more comfortable sending an e-mail to law librarians or instructors rather than meeting with them in person?**

- Strongly disagree     Somewhat disagree     Somewhat agree     Strongly agree     Don't know

**9. The Principles of Legal Research Website is easy to use? In other words, you can explore on your own without formal workshops or tutorials in class.**

- Strongly disagree     Somewhat disagree     Somewhat agree     Strongly agree     Don't know

**10. Other comments? .....**

## Appendix 2: Questionnaire in French

1. **Démographique des étudiants: Vous êtes actuellement étudiant(e) en ... ?**
- Common Law       Droit civil       Programme national (J.D./LL.L)
- À temps plein       À temps partiel
- 1ère année       2ème année       3ème année       4ème année       Plus
- Canadien(ne) ou résident permanent       International
2. **Le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique contient des informations exactes et utiles ?**
- Fortement en désaccord       Plutôt en désaccord       Plutôt en accord       Fortement d'accord       Ne sais pas
3. **Dans l'ensemble, le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique présente une interface (graphiques, mise en page, couleurs) qui stimule votre apprentissage ?**
- Fortement en désaccord       Plutôt en désaccord       Plutôt en accord       Fortement d'accord       Ne sais pas
4. **Quand vous avez été à la recherche d'informations spécifiques, vous avez trouvé que le système de navigation (par exemple : barre de menu, liste déroulante, la table des matières) dans le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique est bien conçu ?**
- Fortement en désaccord       Plutôt en désaccord       Plutôt en accord       Fortement d'accord       Ne sais pas
5. **A votre avis, le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique devrait introduire des fonctions 2.0 comme RSS, blogs, réseaux sociaux (Facebook, Twitter, et Mendeley) ?**
- Oui       Non       Ne sais pas
6. **Souhaiteriez-vous utiliser une version mobile (Téléphone intelligent) du site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique si elle serait disponible dans le futur?**
- Oui       Non       Ne sais pas
7. **Le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique fournit souvent des liens vers des ressources externes. Avez-vous maintenant préféré lire à partir d'une version électronique plutôt que sur papier si les deux options sont disponibles?**
- Oui       Non       Ne sais pas
8. **Si vous avez une question concernant le contenu du site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique, vous êtes plus à l'aise à envoyer un courrier électronique aux bibliothécaires de droit ou aux instructeurs plutôt que de les rencontrer en personne ?**
- Fortement en désaccord       Plutôt en désaccord       Plutôt en accord       Fortement d'accord       Ne sais pas
9. **Le site Web portant sur les principes de la recherche juridique est facile à utiliser ? En d'autres termes, vous pouvez explorer par vous-mêmes sans ateliers formels ou de séances en classe.**
- Fortement en désaccord       Plutôt en désaccord       Plutôt en accord       Fortement d'accord       Ne sais pas
10. **Autres commentaires? .....**