

Creating a Civil Justice Thesaurus

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About the Forum

The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice is a non-profit, independent organization dedicated to bringing together the public, the courts, the legal profession and government in order to promote a civil justice system that is accessible, effective, fair and efficient.

Major research projects include:

- Civil Justice System and the Public
- Alberta Legal Services Mapping Project
- Cost of Justice Research

Inventory of Reforms

Search the Inventory

This database contains descriptions of civil justice system reform initiatives from across Canada, each described according to a standard format that includes information on the purpose, development, implementation, and evaluation of the reform. [Go to 2008.1](#)

Search: Title, Subject, Jurisdiction, Results per page, Years, Search, Reset

Displaying 1 - 58 of 146 reforms
 To filter this list, please enter search criteria in the fields above.

Year	Title	Jurisdiction
2009	BC Dispute Resolution Project	British Columbia
2009	Chikam	British Columbia
2009	Federal Court Rules - Summary Judgment and Summary Trial (Rules 213 to 217)	Federal
2009	Manitoba Family Law Access Centre (FLAC)	Manitoba
2009	New Brunswick Family Court Pilot Project	New Brunswick
2009	New Brunswick Family Law Information Centre (FLIC)	New Brunswick
2009	Nova Scotia Action for Claims Valued Under \$100,000 (Rule 54)	Nova Scotia
2009	Nova Scotia Action for Damages Under \$100,000 (Rule 37)	Nova Scotia
2009	Nova Scotia Application in Court (Rules 5.07.3-08)	Nova Scotia
2009	Nova Scotia Civil Rules Revision Project - Discovery and Disclosure	Nova Scotia
2009	Nova Scotia Civil Rules Revision Project - Management of Litigation	Nova Scotia
2009	Nova Scotia Disclosure of Electronic Information (Rule 14)	Nova Scotia

fcj-fcjc.org/inventory

Need for an Inventory / Clearinghouse search thesaurus

- Complexity of civil justice reform
- Subject area is difficult to delineate
- Large variation in terminology across Canada
- Legal terms of art

Search thesauri

- Scope Notes (SN)
- Poly-hierarchical tree of subject terms (NT/BT)
- Related Terms (RT)
- Synonyms (UF)

legal service centres	
SN	Centres serving the public which may provide a variety of legal services including information, advice, referral, or help finding a lawyer.
BT	legal service providers
NT	clinics
NT	legal information centres
RT	legal services
UF	justice access centres

Benefits of a search thesaurus

- Alternative entry points capture variation in terminology
 - Consistent cataloguing and thorough searching
- Scope notes make use of terms of art clearer
 - Distinguish similar terms such as "costs" and "cost of justice"

Benefits of a search thesaurus, cont.

- Rich relational structure encourages exploring the subject area (related, broader, and narrower terms)
 - e.g. may lead user from “cost of justice” to “legal fees”
- Focus on post-coordination of terms allows new topics to be explored as they emerge
 - e.g. family law + mediation

Pajek visualization of subject correlation in the Inventory of Reforms



Faceted browsing

- Recent Clearinghouse update shifts from searching to browsing paradigm
- Increases ability of users to post-coordinate subject terms into meaningful combinations

Search criteria	
Subject:	
complex litigation	
Limit by additional subject	
jury trials	(23)
trials	(23)
tort law	(21)
pre-trial procedure	(13)
jurisdiction	(8)
law offices	(6)
class action litigation	(6)
intellectual property	(4)
constitutional law	(4)
corporate law	(4)
see more	

Challenges

- Expert input
- Public input
- Bilingual development
