

The premise which launched my six year Social Security project was that electronic media permitted works of new power and that realizing that power called for new kinds of "writing" and a new process for authorial creation. My experience designing, building, and writing Social Security Plus and its distinct "treatise" element both confirmed that belief and led me to some very specific views about the process and relationship elements required to create large scale (i.e., CD-ROM size) electronic legal reference works.

Writing effective hypertext works, no matter what the scale, calls for letting go of some very strong print habits and learning a new vocabulary of function. Add the challenge of creating a tight fit between that writing and a comprehensive set of linked companion data and it seems clear to me that one has a set of tasks that allocate uncomfortably against the standard author-publisher relationship in law.

In contract and largely in practice the standard relationship puts the full burden of scoping, organizing and then writing a full information product (the book) on the author. The publisher sets standards of quality, consistency of form, and all too infrequently editorial review. But, in essence, the principal work of the publisher's staff begins when the author's is done -- with the production, marketing, and sale of the book.

(Publishers also produce staff-written and maintained works -- individual reference works and loose-leaf services. This set of observations does not apply to them.)

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□Date:æ Monday, January 16, 1995 5:03 pm  
□Subject:æ Materials Arrived

The AALS meetings are done and so are my grading chores for the past term (completed last Friday). Your several packages have arrived. I'll start getting acquainted with their contents this week.

In the meantime, let me share some preliminary scoping results (and simultaneously test our e@mail link).

I have run three searches on WESTLAW, supplemented by three on LEXIS, to estimate the number of cases that would be required by the addition of SSI (income and resources), Medicare, and Medicaid. I have also run a LEXIS search on rulings.

At the point your data people are ready, I can furnish lists of these lists in digital form to be compared to the database of cases already on SS Plus to determine exactly how many (and which) are truly additional cases.

In all cases my WESTLAW searches made use of the appropriate West key numbers. Since that omits district court decisions not appearing in F. Supp. I ran the a follow up LEXIS search limited to unpublished district court decisions.

#### SSI

WESTLAW search 460 hits, supplementary LEXIS search 1350  
This yields a total of 1810. There are approximately 1205 SSI district court decisions already on SS Plus (SSI disability decisions) so it looks like we are looking at a net increase of 600 or so to cover income and resource issues. My LEXIS search of Social Security Rulings yielded an estimate of 45050 dealing with SSI income and resource issues.

#### MEDICARE

Westlaw search 969 hits, supplementary LEXIS search 419  
This yields a total of 1388. Since there are NO Medicare decisions on SS Plus all would be adds. On the other hand, assuming a line is drawn between eligibility and provider issues that should drastically reduce the number.

#### MEDICAID

Westlaw search 698, supplementary LEXIS search 343  
This yields a total of 1041.

How do these numbers compare with your estimates, Mick?  
If we are going to start marching on SSI, we'll need to acquire the cases and rulings from LEXIS soon so that I can start building the treatise and figuring out how to code them (the cases and rulings).

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CBC -- Glenn Ferguson, Sue Reinbold, and Mick Cole pressed for the inclusion of SSI Income and Resources material, Medicaid and Medicare eligibility and benefit material on the SS Plus Disk  
The next scheduled disk will be March --presumably with a February cutoff (They want to move to a March, June, Sept, Dec update schedule)  
I expressed the view that it would take a lot of work on both sides to pull it off -- and that I did not want nominal coverage without treating the topics with the thoroughness and coherence of the core OASDI material.

That means a full case and ruling collection, treatise coverage, and integration of the two by topic codes.

Following the conference call I scoped the topics using Westlaw and the West key numnbers (which results in serious under counting because of unpublished district court decisions).

SSI cases retrieved by the search:

SSI or "supplemental security income" and 356ak175.5 356ak175.10  
356ak175.15 356ak175.20 356ak175.25 356ak175.30

produced 460 hits which I have saved in an ascii list (the cases need to be checked against SS Plus -- I expect over 50% overlap and so a net add of under 200)

My medicare search of:

medicare and 365ak241.5 365ak241.10 365ak241.15 365ak241.20 365ak241.30  
365ak241.35 365ak241.40

yielded 969 hits

And medicaid:

medicaid and 365ak241.55 365ak241.60 365ak241.75 365ak241.90 365ak241.105  
365ak241.115

produced 698