

Dear \*\*\*:

We, the Legal Information Institute, invite you to join us at Cornell for a workshop/conference from July 10-14, 2000. Our plan is to assemble a small group of people doing advanced work in public distribution of electronic legal information for a series of roundtable meetings on issues of mutual concern; details of content and organization are spelled out below. We hope very much that you will be able to attend. Comprehensive gatherings of leaders in this area of work are rare, and we think that this should be an important event. If you cannot attend, please let us know as soon as possible, for we will want to fill any open slots with others.

A working list of roughly twenty invitees appears at the end of this message. Obviously it is neither final nor complete. We would welcome suggestions about others to invite (particularly if we have made glaring omissions). Not only may some on the original list be unable to attend, but our budget has room for a slightly larger group. Please bear in mind, though, that we want to keep the gathering from becoming unwieldy. We cheerfully admit that the list is skewed toward US providers, partly because that part of the world is better known to us and partly because our agenda includes marshalling of support for standards-based efforts in the US.

We look forward to seeing you here in Ithaca this summer.

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DATES AND LOCATION

The meeting is planned for July 10-14, 2000, in Ithaca, NY. These dates have been selected largely because a substantial number of people from far away will be attending the SubTech conference in Cambridge, MA. While the duration may seem long, we think you will agree that it is justified by the amount of territory we have to cover.

ORGANIZATION AND CONTENT

Format:

The conference will be structured as a series of topically-focussed roundtable meetings, each with a moderator/leader from within the list of invitees (though not, we hope, from the LII). We expect that these will be fairly high-level discussions of the issues involved, and we hope that there will be little need for and minimal presentation of material intended solely to get people up to speed. Moderators may want to suggest background material relevant to their sessions; we will send out a "reading list" by April 1.

Topics:

We expect that the following would be useful things to talk about:

- Markup standards for judicial opinions and legislation, including XML namespaces, architectural forms, and other approaches oriented toward interchange standards
- Standards for metadata
- A standard or standards for "relaxed-fit" topical classification
- General consideration of transnational resource-location issues
- Implementation and use of persistent identifiers and resolution services
- Internationalization of existing collections, including language translation and generation of comparative secondary materials for transnational audiences.
- Organized communication of best practices

Let us know what we've left off the list. There is probably enough there already for three conferences, but there may well be things that need our attention urgently or that this group is particularly suited to address.

Moderators:

If you are interested in serving as moderator for a particular session, let us know. Otherwise, we will begin press-ganging moderators on March 1 (we hope that this imparts a suitable sense of inevitability and makes you the more willing to volunteer, especially if your qualifications or experience make you a logical choice for some area). Free evenings and small size should permit some flexibility during the conference itself, but again if there are glaring omissions we want to hear about them soon.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, AND EXPENSES

Our budget covers hotel accommodations for workshop attendees; travel expenses will be your responsibility. (To the extent that you are also able to pay your own hotel expenses we would appreciate it, but it is not expected; please let us know how you plan to proceed. Every dollar helps.) We will be pleased to make hotel reservations for you, and can offer helpful advice on air travel, car rentals, and the like.

Ithaca has good air connections to Pittsburgh, New York, and Philadelphia; the principal air carrier is US Airways. The nearest larger airport is in Syracuse, NY (about 1 hour away). There is limousine service from Syracuse, but it is almost as inexpensive to hire a car if you are planning to return via Syracuse as well.

Since there is the possibility that a number of people will be coming directly from SubTech in Cambridge to Ithaca, we may want to explore the possibility of some sort of group arrangement or carpooling (air travel from Boston to Ithaca is indirect, expensive, and inordinately time-consuming; by motor the trip takes approximately six hours and is reasonably scenic). Please let us know if you will be travelling directly from Cambridge to Ithaca.

All questions & responses regarding accommodations and transportation should be directed to Linda Majeroni ([majeroni@law.mail.cornell.edu](mailto:majeroni@law.mail.cornell.edu) ; 607-255-6536 ).

INVITEES (preliminary list as of 1/24/00):

Hosts:

Thomas Bruce and Peter Martin, Legal Information Institute

Allison, Burgess (ABA)  
Amisshah, Ralph (Lex Mercatoria)  
Arnold-Moore, Tim (RMIT)  
Chabot, Eliot (US HR)  
Dale, John (CTI/Warwick)  
Finke, Nick (Cincinnati)  
Gannaway, Deanne (Witwatersrand)  
Greenleaf, Graham (AustLII)  
Harvold, Trygve (Lovdata)  
Lederer, John (Wisconsin)  
Martin, Terry (Harvard)  
Masters, Elmer (Emory Univ.)  
Mowbray, Andrew (AustLII)  
Paliwala, Abdul (CTI/Warwick)  
Poulin, Daniel (CRDP)