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Justice Through the Internet: Hopes and Challenges of Law and the Semantic Web

The legal market is an emerging market for the Semantic Web (SW). However, legal professional knowledge is unequally distributed among legal professions, and some Semantic Web promises have not to be fulfilled yet. SW strategies should be grounded on detailed cognitive and sociological studies showing the daily behavior and real needs of ICT users. Second generation of SW applications is coming up but, still, some well-known problems remain, especially regarding knowledge acquisition and ontology building. SW and new trends in legal knowledge, such Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), easier citizens' access to justice or the needs of the law firms for a more efficient organization and information retrieval are evolving along to the new functionalities and services orientation of the Web 2.0 and the Web 3.0. I will stand that only a multifunctional and hybrid strategy may cope with citizens' needs for a better and more efficient justice through the web.