

LREC 2010 Workshop on

SEMANTIC PROCESSING OF LEGAL TEXTS (SPLeT-2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS

23 May 2010, Malta

EXTENDED DEADLINE: 17 February 2010

Workshop description

The legal domain represents a primary candidate for web-based information distribution, exchange and management, as testified by the numerous e-government, e-justice and e-democracy initiatives worldwide. The last few years have seen a growing body of research and practice in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Law which addresses a range of topics: automated legal reasoning and argumentation, semantic and cross-language legal information retrieval, document classification, legal drafting, legal knowledge discovery and extraction, as well as the construction of legal ontologies and their application to the law domain. In this context, it is of paramount importance to use Natural Language Processing techniques and tools that automate and facilitate the process of knowledge extraction from legal texts.

With the last two years, a number of dedicated workshops and tutorials specifically focussing on different aspects of semantic processing of legal texts has demonstrated the current interest in research on Artificial Intelligence and Law in combination with Language Resources (LR) and Human Language Technologies (HLT). The LREC 2008 Workshop on “Semantic processing of legal texts” was held in Marrakech, Morocco, on the 27th of May 2008. The JURIX 2008 Workshop on “the Natural Language Engineering of Legal Argumentation: Language, Logic, and Computation (NaLEA)”, which focussed on recent advances in natural language engineering and legal argumentation. The ICAIL 2009 Workshops “LOAIT ’09 – the 3rd Workshop on Legal Ontologies and Artificial Intelligence Techniques joint with the 2nd Workshop on Semantic Processing of Legal Texts” and “NALEA’09 - Workshop on the Natural Language Engineering of Legal Argumentation: Language, Logic, and Computation”, the former focussing on Legal Knowledge Representation with particular emphasis on the issue of ontology acquisition from legal texts, the latter tackling issues related to legal argumentation and linguistic technologies.

To continue this momentum, a 3rd Workshop on “Semantic Processing of Legal Texts” is being organised at the LREC conference to bring to the attention of the broader LR/HLT community the specific technical challenges posed by the semantic processing of legal texts and also share with the community the motivations and objectives which make it of interest to researchers in legal informatics. The outcome of these interactions are expected to advance research and applications and foster interdisciplinary collaboration within the legal domain.

The main goals of the workshop are to provide an overview of the state-of-the-art in legal knowledge extraction and management, to explore new research and development directions and emerging trends, and to exchange information regarding legal LRs and HLTs and their applications.

Areas of Interest

The workshop will focus on the topics of the automatic extraction of information from legal texts and the structural organisation of the extracted knowledge. Particular emphasis will be given to the crucial role of language resources and human language technologies.

Papers are invited on, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Building legal resources: terminologies, ontologies, corpora
- Ontologies of legal texts, including subareas such as ontology acquisition, ontology customisation, ontology merging, ontology extension, ontology evolution, lexical information, etc.
- Information retrieval and extraction from legal texts
- Semantic annotation of legal texts
- Legal text processing
- Multilingual aspects of legal text semantic processing
- Legal thesauri mapping
- Automatic Classification of legal documents
- Logical analysis of legal language
- Automated parsing and translation of natural language arguments into a logical formalism
- Linguistically-oriented XML mark up of legal arguments
- Dialogue protocols for argumentation
- Legal argument ontology
- Computational theories of argumentation that are suitable to natural language
- Controlled language systems for law.

Submissions

Submissions are solicited from researchers working on all aspects of semantic processing of legal texts. Authors are invited to submit papers describing original completed work, work in progress, interesting problems, case studies or research trends related to one or more of the topics of interest listed above. The final version of the accepted papers will be published in the Workshop Proceedings.

Short or full papers can be submitted. Short papers are expected to present new ideas or new visions that may influence the direction of future research, yet they may be less mature than full papers. While an exhaustive evaluation of the proposed ideas is not necessary, insight and in-depth understanding of the issues is expected. Full papers should be more well developed and evaluated. Short papers will be reviewed the same way as full papers by the Program Committee and will be published in the Workshop Proceedings.

Full paper submissions should not exceed 10 pages, short papers 6 pages. Templates (Latex and Word) for paper submission can be found on the conference web site at <http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2010/?Author-s-Kit-and-Templates>. Papers should be submitted electronically, no later than February 10, 2010. The only accepted format for submitted papers is Adobe PDF. Submission

will be electronic using START paper submission software available at <https://www.softconf.com/lrec2010/SPLeT2010/>.

Note that when submitting a paper through the START page, authors will be kindly asked to provide relevant information about the resources that have been used for the work described in their paper or that are the outcome of their research. In this way, authors will contribute to the LREC2010 Map, our new feature for LREC 2010. For further information on this initiative, please refer to <http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2010/?LREC2010-Map-of-Language-Resources>.

Important Dates

Paper submission deadline: *** **17 February 2010** ***

Acceptance notification sent: 5 March 2010

Final version deadline: 21 March 2010

Workshop date: 23 May 2010

Workshop Chairs

- Enrico Francesconi (Istituto di Teoria e Tecniche dell'Informazione Giuridica of CNR, Florence, Italy)
- Simonetta Montemagni (Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale of CNR, Pisa, Italy)
- Wim Peters (Natural Language Processing Research Group, University of Sheffield, UK)
- Adam Wyner (Department of Computer Science, University College London, UK)

Address any queries regarding the workshop to: lrec10_legalWS@ilc.cnr.it

Program Committee

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