



Digital Law Report Project
Bridging Justice and Sustainability

Guidelines to High Courts

AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
New Delhi -110001

Introduction

The "***Digital Law Reports***" project is envisioned by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, and the Chairman of AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, Supreme Court of India.

It represents a monumental shift in legal information dissemination, promoting accessibility, transparency, and environmental consciousness

The key objectives are -

1. **In-house digital publication-** The High Courts to publish this law report in-house.
2. **Digital Format-** publish the law reports in digital format, eliminating the need for physical print production, distribution, and the associated environmental impact.
3. **Content-** The digital report shall be organized in sections and shall contain the following searchable content:
 - 3.1. All judgements published in the physically printed ILR of the particular High Court to be digitally published.
 - 3.2. Apart from these judgements, if there are any other judgements which were marked/certified for reporting but not published for any reasons, should also be published digitally.

- 3.3. All judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court arising out of the judgements of the particular High Court to be published.
 - 3.4. If no ILR is published for that court or such publication is discontinued, all decisions marked/certified for reporting to be digitally published.
 - 3.5. The Editorial board could also call for articles and publish such articles as it deems fit.
 - 3.6. All welcome speeches, reply speeches, reference speeches to be published digitally.
 - 3.7. Such other content as the editorial board deems fit.
4. **Online Platform Development-** Develop a user-friendly, accessible website for hosting the "Digital Law Reports," optimised for easy navigation.
 5. **Open Access Model-** Operate under an open access model, granting free and unrestricted access to all users, including law students, young lawyers, and the public.
 6. **Publicity-** Necessary publicity for this service to be given by informing the State Bar Council, All Bar Associations, colleges, universities etc., with instructions to disseminate information of "Digital Law Reports" to all concerned.
 7. **HTML and PDF Format-** Present reports in HTML and PDF format, ensuring compatibility across

devices and browsers, along with enhanced searchability.

8. **Search Functionality-** Initially to implement search features, enabling users to explore the reports by year, volume, and parts in the beginning. Later, an advanced search to be provided.
9. **Cyber Security-** Take proper steps to implement cyber security features in the digital law report web application and server.
10. **Quality Assurance-** Deploy a team of legal editors to maintain the accuracy, reliability, and consistency of the published reports.
11. **Environmental Responsibility-** Emphasize the environmental benefits of the digital transition, notably the substantial reduction in carbon emissions associated with print publications.
12. **Regular Updates-** Commitment to continuous updates of the digital platform, ensuring that the latest judgments are readily available.
13. **Legal and Ethical Compliance-** Ensure strict adherence to copyright laws and uphold the highest standards of legal and ethical integrity in all content.

Guidelines for High Court Publishing Digital Indian Law Reports (DILR) / Digital High Court Reports (DHCR)

1. The idea of asking the High Courts to publish e-Indian law reports is to provide free access to the High Court judgments in the form of a law report.
2. No commercial publisher should be involved in this digital publication.
3. All the High Courts publishing e-Indian Law Reports are required to make the necessary arrangements for having their own Editorial or Publication Wing with an Editor-in-Chief where in the brief head notes of the judgments will be prepared in-house.
4. The assistance of young advocates may be obtained. There can be empanelment of Advocates as 'Honorary Associate Editors'
5. They can be paid an honorarium for preparing the headnote/s, which may be fixed as per the number of pages of the judgments. The honorarium may be paid to the Honorary Associate Editors as per the number of judgments they prepare the head note for.
6. The headnotes prepared by the Honorary Associate Editors needs to be verified by senior advocates or designated judicial officers.

7. Further, there would be a need to hire a couple of Graphic Design professionals who have expertise in Adobe InDesign Desktop & Digital Publishing Software. These professionals will be designing the digital law report in-house in the required format for digital publishing.
8. The computer department of the High Courts will have to depute to the Editorial department couple of software developers for developing databases and application/s for the digital law report and at least one web designer to design the web page/s of the digital law report
9. There should be coordination between the teams of Editorial, Graphic Designers and Software Developer & Web Designer team for publishing the digital law report.
10. Once this set up is done in the High Courts, they may digitally publish their digital law report either weekly or fortnightly without being dependent on anyone.

Sd/-

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(H. Shashidhara Shetty)
Registrar & Member (Secretary)
of the AI Assisted Legal Translation
Advisory Committee