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SUCHANYA CHIRABANDHU : AN ANALYSIS OF LEGAL DATABASES IN THAILAND.

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The objective of this research is to study the in-house legal databases in Thailand in terms of the purposes, database creation, budget, staff. It also investigates problems of 21 legal databases in seven public organizations in Thailand. The study examines database structure, worksheet, display format, data entry, updating and search strategy in order to introduce and evaluate a new legal database structure.

The results of the research are as follows : The 21 databases are designed to provide services within the organization and also to the public. There is an overlapping of data field among the primary legal resources and legal bibliographic and index databases. All databases use Database Management System (DBMS) but are differed in information processing. The Organizations that provide services for their own staff receive limited budget than those that also provide services to the public. The database administrators have some computer experiences. The organizations encounter different problems. Furthermore, it is found that the structures of 21 databases are in accordance with types of legal materials. Some databases employ worksheets for data entry while some do not. Databases that use worksheets for data entry provide bibliographic data or index while those that do not use worksheets provide full text and summary. The updating of databases that do not use worksheets is more difficult. Every database use similar search techniques. From the above mentioned analysis, the new database structure can be established and the seven database administrators are satisfied with this structure at moderate level.