

Disclosure of Information in Chinese Juridical Field: Information & Information  
Technology?

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**Abstract:** As Chinese government has invested a lot in juridical field since the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan had been implemented in 2016, authorities in the juridical system did a lot to improve their platforms which are used to provide information to public. Information disclosed online has always drawn attention in the government's movements. This study aims to find out if there are any improvements to disclosure of information function with such heavy investment on information technology, by analyzing data collected from 4 representative authorities with a quantitative and qualitative framework, which was specified by literature review and *Core Index Evaluation System of Government Website Development* issued by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

**Keywords:** Disclosure of Information; Juridical field; China; Information Technology

As one of the cornerstones of democracy and legal system, freedom of information plays an active role in protecting citizens' right to know how governments or public authorities work and promoting administration efficiency. It is also the fundamental

requirement for building a transparent and sunshine government. *The Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Information Disclosure of the People's Republic of China*, which came into effect on May 1st, 2008 (the State Council, 2008), marked the entry of the government information disclosure work into the legalization stage.

In recent years, China has invested heavily in information technology in order to deliver better services as well as improving office efficiency, especially in juridical field. For example, in order to carry out the central government's overall plan for further deepening the reform of the judicial system and promote the sunshine justice, the Supreme People's Court put forward the establishment of three major platforms for juridical openness based on information technology, which are disclosure of sound trial process platform, disclosure of referee records platform and implementation information disclosure platform (the Supreme People's Court, 2013). Juridical openness is not only a way to protect the basic rights of citizens and legal persons, but also to maintain the credibility of the judiciary and establish the inherent requirements of judicial authority. The disclosure of information in the field of justice is a powerful guarantee for judicial openness. However, with investing heavily in information technology in juridical field, is there any improvements on the platforms which the juridical authorities provided information to public? If it has been improved, then where? Will it be easier for public to find or acquire information they wanted from the platforms provided by the juridical authorities? Will the information on the platforms be updated frequently?

The generalized Juridical system is composed of investigated organ, procuratorial organ and judicial organ in China (Liu, 2017). We choose the Ministry of Public Security, ministry of Justice, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate of People's Republic of China as representatives of juridical system because of their authority on national level. Data was collected by reviewing the authorities' websites and regulations and policies they issued. Data was analysis within a quantitative and qualitative framework and specified according to literature review and *Core Index Evaluation System of Government Website Development* issued by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The preliminary finding shows that though public authorities in juridical field have a greater investment in information technology, the importance of information is ignored, which means that the authorities didn't attach much importance to information itself.

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