REGNET: Regulatory Information Management, Compliance and Analysis

Kincho H. Law and Gloria Lau
Engineering Informatics Group
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Stanford University
Stanford, CA, 95014, USA
Email: law@stanford.edu; glau@stanford.edu

***Abstract*—** While regulations provide many social benefits, such as protecting our environment and improving public safety, the complexity and volume of government regulations and related information are detrimental to business and hinder public understanding. The burden of complying with regulations can fall disproportionately on small businesses. Governmental portals have emerged to facilitate public access to government information and services but most of them are designed primarily for displaying the regulatory information and often usable only by experienced users, who are familiar with the subject and the portal. It remains difficult to locate cross-referenced information and to link regulatory information with useful applications. The REGNET project has dealt with four aspects in the utilization of IT related to regulatory information: (1) development of a regulation-centric compliance assistance framework [1]; (2) development of a relatedness analysis framework for comparing regulatory documents and supporting e-rulemaking analysis [2]; (3) utilizing text-mining techniques to gauge involvement of public agencies in environmental management [3]; and (4) developing an ontology-based framework for retrieval of patents and related legal and regulatory information [4].

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