

## NCSC Technology Services Projects Status Report

### Justice Information Sharing Project Report

In March 2004, the JTC established four goals for the Justice Information Sharing Project. They are:

1. Incrementally develop XML-based court documents (internal and external), reference schemas, related data models and other artifacts that the courts and other entities can use in their internal development and external exchange efforts leveraging existing efforts within the courts and the broader justice community with an eye toward harmonizing our activities with the GJXDD and GJXDM.
2. Assist the XSTF in refining their definitions of court related data elements.
3. Develop implementation and funding strategies for a state court registry that are compatible with the federal federated registry efforts currently being considered.
4. Provide education, outreach and training to state courts related to use of the court documents and related artifacts created in Goal 1 and in the use of and developments related to the GJXDD and GJXDM.

NCSC obtained funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, developed a project plan and provided periodic status reports to JTC in July 2005, December 2004 and July 2005. The progress reports, reproduced here as Figures 1, 2 and 3 show some slippage from the original plan. However, **as of this report, all these goals and the defined tasks have been completed** except for the creation of an IEPD for the State Guide to Statistical Reporting which is in final draft and pending review by the NCSC Research Division.

ü**Goal 1. This goal has been achieved.** NCSC technology staff has:

- participated in the Global FACA development of the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM);
- facilitated the development of several Global Information Exchange Packages (IEPDs) for protection orders, sentence orders, warrants and traffic citations (ready for JTC endorsement);
- participated in the Global FACA committees and working groups to develop additional IEPDs and an encompassing justice reference architecture;
- participated in the initial development of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) sponsored by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
- observed the OASIS Legal XML Electronic Court Filing standards development work;



- facilitated the development of consolidated case management functional standards (ready for JTC endorsement); and
- developed a Roadmap document for future functional standards and other standards development activities for JTC endorsement.

Standards projects either now underway or planned for the near future include:

- development of IEPDs for child support enforcement petitions, charge tracking, civil case filing and juvenile dependency case filing;
- development of IEPDs for all ten CourTools performance measures;
- completion of the IEPD for the NCSC State Guide to Statistical Reporting; and
- addition of appellate CMS functions into the Consolidated CMS standards.

NCSC is working with the court community to develop a service-oriented Court Information Model that will become a repository of court business processes and associated services. This model is based on the concept of reusable components and will create a common understanding and language between court business leaders (domain experts) and technical experts.

Early work on the Court Information Model has resulted in the development of the Court Component Library as the court's method of approaching the development of Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) as defined by the GJXDM XML Structure Task Force. The Court Component Library provides a repeatable process for developing IEPDs that is accessible both in terms of vocabulary and structure to court domain experts. The Library uses open standards, encourages component reuse, is consistent with court business models and provides an easy bridge to the GJXDM and NIEM frameworks today and other frameworks as they evolve.

NCSC and teams of court practitioners and participants from other justice domains have used the Court Component Library in developing the IEPDs being presented for JTC endorsement. The Court Information Model and the Court Component Library will continue to expand and be refined as new IEPDs are developed and as the consolidated standards are enhanced.

**Goal 2. This goal has been achieved.** As additional IEPDs are developed, court related data element and their definitions will continue to be refined.

**Goal 3. This goal has been achieved.** NCSC has been awarded a small grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to pilot a federated registry. NCSC will be releasing an RFP shortly to identify vendors to assist in this effort.

**Goal 4. This goal has been achieved.** NCSC has been heavily involved in GJXDM related training activities with the Global Training and Technical Assistance Committee including hosting a GJXDM track at CTC9. NCSC is a partner with IJIS Institute and SEARCH in providing the GJXDM National Help Desk, a phone and web-based resource for the user community to receive guidance on GJXDM implementation questions. NCSC has also revamped its website to help in its outreach efforts.



### Justice Information Sharing Program: Phase I – July 2004

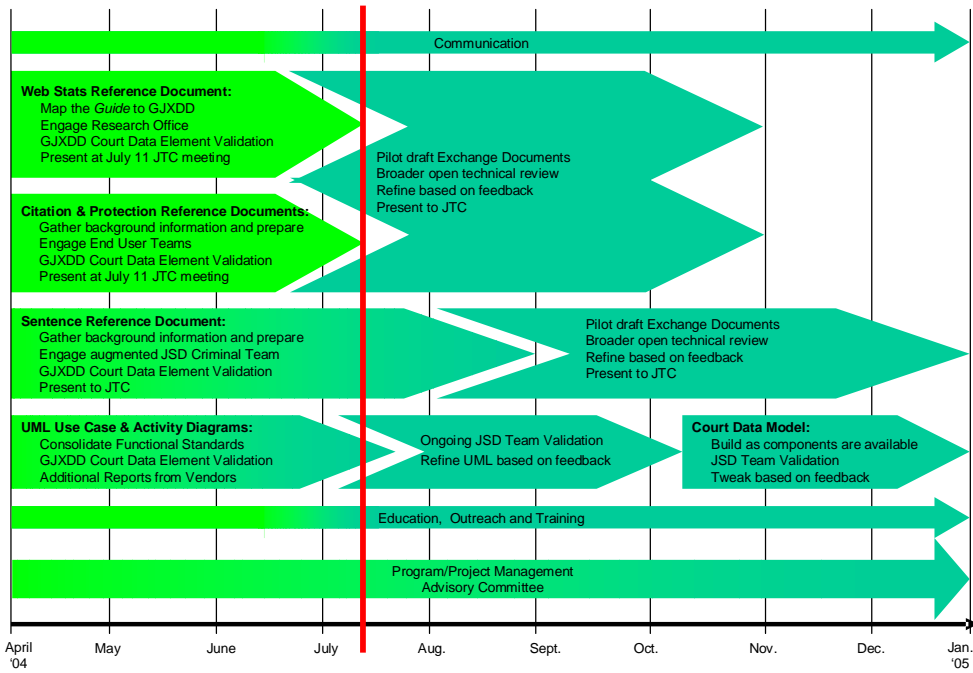


Figure 1: July 2004 Progress Report

### Justice Information Sharing Program: Phase I – December 2004

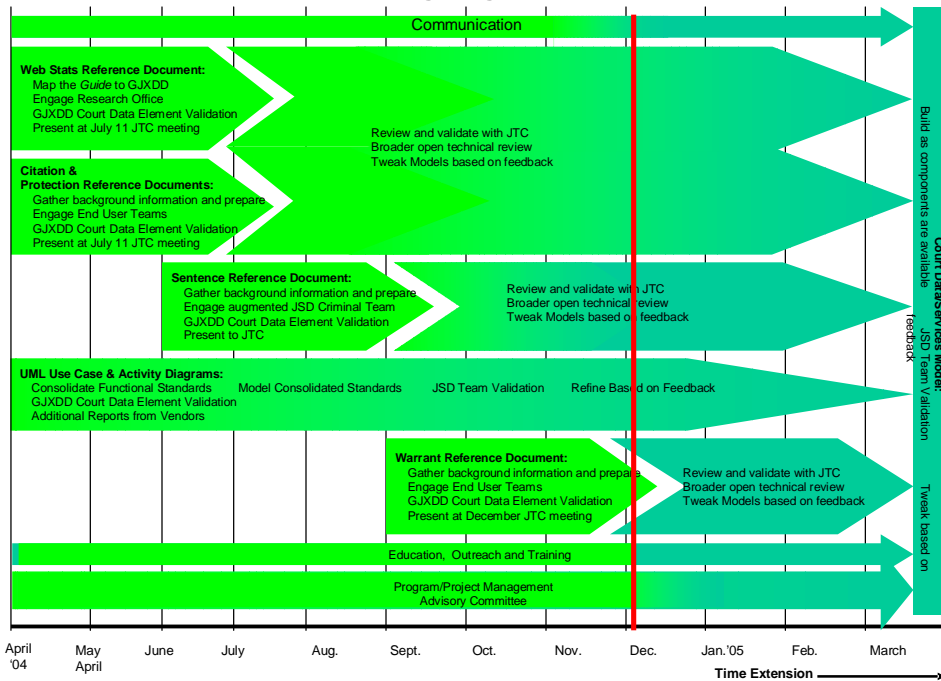
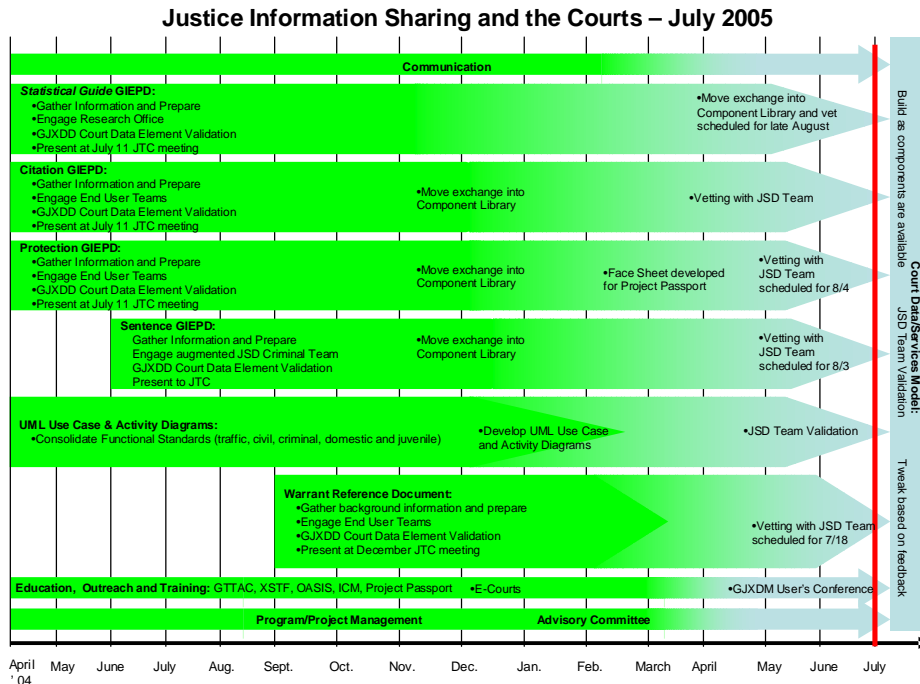


Figure 2: December 2004 Progress Report





**Figure 3: July 2005 Progress Report**

### Information Exchange Registry Pilot

The benefits of national court information exchange standards can only be achieved if they are widely adopted and implemented. This can only happen if the courts and their justice partners know about them. We can help courts know about information exchange standards through an aggressive outreach program. There is, however, also a technical component to exposing these exchange standards.

From a technical perspective, for collaboration to occur, information exchange specifications need to be published and made available to developers and applications for use through some form of registry. The justice community crosses multiple jurisdictions, levels and branches of government. This suggests a federated registry approach in which different jurisdictions and branches could maintain their own registry of exchange specifications and could connect to all of the other registries as needed. Currently, as Global has identified in their report on service-oriented architecture, there is no consensus on the technical standards, policy requirements or operational procedures for a federated registry to support the GJXDM initiative.

The U.S. Department of Justice has provided limited funding to NCSC to pilot a court registry and to begin to assess some of the technical, policy and operational issues involved in developing a federated registry to support information exchanges. Technology Services will be working on this project over the next 18 months.

### NIEM Component Reconciliation

The creation of the GJXDM is a significant political and technical accomplishment. While some have raised technical objections to the model, there have been a number of implementations



across the country throughout the justice community. The success of this model has caused the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to look to the GJXDM as a starting point for meeting its information exchange requirements. The U.S. Department of Justice and DHS signed a Memorandum of Understanding linking their efforts and establishing the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).

DHS's NIEM uses the GJXDM as its foundation, expands it to deal with the broader DHS mission, and seeks to address some of the technical concerns people had with the GJXDM. NIEM is currently in a very early stage of development and the exact long term relationship to the GJXDM is still unknown.

Technology Services staff have been monitoring the development of both the GJXDM and the NIEM and recognized that they would continue to evolve for some time. Nonetheless, courts couldn't wait until the models stabilized. They needed to act immediately to develop information exchanges that worked with the GJXDM today and that could be adjusted as needed as the models changed in the future.

Rather than build information exchanges specifications that were directly tied to the GJXDM and thus would need to be changed every time the GJXDM changed, Technology Services decided to build a Court Component Library. The Court Component Library provides a repeatable process for developing information exchange specifications that are accessible both in terms of vocabulary and structure to court domain experts. The Library uses open standards, encourages component reuse, is consistent with court business models and provides an easy bridge to the GJXDM today and other frameworks as they evolve. Courts write information exchanges specifications to the Court Component Library and the Library generates GJXDM compliant exchanges.

As the NIEM is evolving it is also defining a set of components. Technology Services needs to bridge the Court Component Library both logically and technically to the NIEM. When this is done, Courts will be able to write their information exchange specifications once to the Court Component Library and the Library will map them to either the GJXDM or NIEM.

Currently Technology Services has not dedicated funds for this effort. Limited money from BJA exists to allow us to continue to monitor NIEM developments. Identifying funding for NIEM Component Reconciliation will be a major priority over the coming months.

## **Drug Court Project**

Last year Technology Services was awarded a grant from OJP to assist them with their Drug Court grant management responsibilities to include, among other things, MIS plan assessments and technical assistance. After a number of delays and some changes in scope, work on this project has begun. NCSC is in the process of conducting an initial review of grants that were awarded for 2004 and 2005 to determine those that have MIS components. Upon completion, the grants with MIS components will undergo an additional review to assess where Technical Assistance is appropriate. A Technical Assistance plan will then be submitted to BJA.



## **CITOC**

NCSC supported the CITOC Interim Executive Committee as it sponsored a series of kick off events at CTC9 in Seattle. One of the SIG sessions was devoted to introducing CIOs to CITOC. Chief Justice Toal spoke to the group and three draft white papers were distributed. Over 100 people attended the meeting and CITOC Editorial and Membership Committees were formed. CITOC held a reception at CTC9 and hosted a "members only" lounge that was open throughout CTC9. Work is currently underway to host a similar lounge at the NACM Midyear in Colorado Springs. The first formal meeting of the group is being planned for the end of February. As of this report, there are 38 CITOC members.

## **GJXDM Outreach & Help Desk**

While the need for and benefits of information sharing are readily accepted and recognized in the courts, the need for using the GJXDM is not. For those courts that do recognize the need to use the GJXDM, many don't have sufficient technical understand of the model to use it effectively.

NCSC has partnered with other Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funded technical assistance providers to provide GJXDM education and outreach. Technology Services staff regularly serve as faculty for national and regional GJXDM training programs and give GJXDM related presentations. Most of the staff participated in the GJXDM Train the Trainer Meeting October 16-20, 2005 and Tom Carlson is one of the lead GTTAC GJXDM trainers.

We have also committed to include GJXDM related education content in our programs and recently sponsored four sessions in a GJXDM education track at CTC9. Three of the white papers produced as part of the CTC9 GJXDM track are provided in your packets. In addition to the GJXDM track, Jim McMillan gave a presentation on New Ideas in Case Management Systems and helped to oversee the CTC9 Integrated Justice demonstration booth presented by Microsoft and SAIC. NCSC sponsored a JTC/CITOC booth that included JTC Standards products, Global GJXDM related information, and CITOC information. We produced a CD-ROM with JTC publications and the Court Guide to Statistical Reporting and distributed it at the booth.

With funding from BJA, NCSC, SEARCH and the IJIS Institute have also teamed up to provide a National GJXDM Help Desk. Staffed from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time, with telephone and Internet access, this help desk is available to answer GJXDM implementation questions. Over the next year, NCSC will provide Level 2 Help Desk support on Court related GJXDM questions.

## **GJXDM/NIEM Policy and Technical Meetings**

NCSC staff are heavily involved in Global, Global Training and Technical Assistance Committee (GTTAC), GJXDM, and NIEM related policy and technical meetings and have participated in over 25 such meetings since the July JTC meeting.

Other justice groups are developing IEPD and occasionally request that NCSC provide a court subject matter expert to participate on their work groups. When these requests come in, NCSC solicits volunteers from the JTC and CITOC listserv and from our database of individuals who have expressed an interest in serving as JTC Liaisons. When NCSC selects a Liaison, we cover travel expenses and the liaison keeps NCSC updated on the group's activities, providing



a brief report after each meeting. Currently Barry Haldiman, Johnson County District Courts, is representing JTC on the IJIS Institute's Prosecution Exchange Reference Committee.

Similarly, the National Highway Transportation and Safety Traffic Records Advisory and Assessment group asked for court representation. Ken Bosier, Judicial Branch, State of Iowa attended those meetings.

### **IEPD and Consolidated Standards Development Meetings**

A key aspect of our standards development process is the inclusion of subject matter and technical experts. Using both face-to-face meetings and WebEx teleconferencing, NCSC has sponsored eight IEPD development and vetting meetings since the last JTC meeting. These meetings involved over 100 individuals from the courts, vendor community, law enforcement and other justice partners representing 35 of the states participating in one or more of these meetings.

On December 5-6, 2005, NCSC staff met with court representatives from Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, and Alaska, representatives from the prosecutors and the International Association of Chiefs of Police and some vendors for their second meeting to discuss Charge Tracking IEPDs.

On December 7-9, 2005, NCSC staff will meet with the appellate court representatives from Arizona, Florida, North Dakota, New Hampshire, and West Virginia and representatives from Maximus, ACS and MTG to continue work on the Consolidated Court Case Management Functional Standards for Appellate Courts.

