

Workshop Develops Global JXDM Reference Exchange Documents for Courts

A highly beneficial body of work in support of justice interoperability was produced recently during an intense four-day workshop, held June 21-24, 2004, in Denver, Colorado, for the purpose of building Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model ([Global JXDM](#)) reference exchange documents to support information exchange for the courts.



The Global JXDM is an XML-based framework enabling the entire justice and public safety community to effectively share information at all levels—laying the foundation for local, state, and national justice interoperability. Developed by [Global](#) and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Global JXDM is an object-oriented data model comprised of a well-defined vocabulary of approximately 2,500 stable data objects, or reusable components, that facilitate the exchange and reuse of information from multiple sources and multiple applications.

The event was hosted by the Colorado Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and sponsored by [SEARCH](#), the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics; the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards ([OASIS](#)); and the National Center for State Courts ([NCSC](#)).

“...I just wanted to say thank you for last week. I feel this was a very successful effort and am glad that I was asked to participate. You did a wonderful job in pulling this together so quickly and keeping us on track. I hope that there will be thought given to continuing this effort to build more Court Reference Documents. There is much work to be done and if we can keep up the momentum, we can add a lot of value to the community at large.

Once again, thank you for the excellent leadership!”

Nancy Rutter
Data Administrator
Maricopa County, Arizona, ICJIS

Workshop participants included AOC representatives from California, Colorado, Missouri, and Washington. Also attending were representatives from Maricopa County, Arizona; Los Angeles County, California; Pennsylvania's Justice Network ([JNET](#)); [SEARCH](#); [NCSC](#); [OASIS](#); and [OJP](#). The purpose of the workshop was to collaborate and compile court-related Global JXDM reference exchange documents for Protection Order, Traffic Citation, Court Disposition, and Sentencing Order.

The first day of the workshop encompassed collaborative work on the exchange document for Protection Order. As a result of this teamwork, the group recognized the need to develop an accurate domain data model as a critical first step. On the second day, the team divided into work groups for each document and constructed a domain object model, representing the various components of the exchange document. From that point, they began the

process of mapping the objects and their attributes to components of the Global JXDM. Out of this work each group generated a set of schemas (subset, extension, and document), based on the mapping, as well as an XML instance illustrating the content. Georgia Tech Research Institute ([GTRI](#)) was on-hand via teleconference and provided technical support and recommendations during the process. GTRI is a key player in the development of the Global JXDM who has continued to provide the software foundations for the Global JXDM, as well as engineering support and technical guidance.

The reference exchange document “packages” produced as a result of this workshop will eventually be vetted and/or substantively validated by various entities and authoritative sources, following an expanded technical review and horizontal analysis by the members of the Reference Document Team. Final work product will be submitted through the Global XML Structure Task Force (XSTF), a group under the Global Advisory Committee's ([GAC](#)) Infrastructure/Standards Working Group ([GISWG](#)). The XSTF was responsible for identifying the data requirements for, exploring XML concepts, and applying XML best practices to the design and implementation of the Global JXDM. It is composed of government and industry-domain experts (law enforcement, courts, and corrections), technical managers, and engineers.

Additional Global JXDM Reference Exchange Document workshops are being planned by SEARCH for the near future. These workshops will focus on building documents to support information exchange for the law enforcement, corrections, and prosecutor domains. These workshops will be a collaborative effort among SEARCH, OASIS, and various justice entities, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police ([IACP](#)) and the Corrections Technology Association ([CTA](#)). In addition, several practitioners have offered to host upcoming reference document workshops in their agencies.

Jurisdictions will be able to leverage these Global JXDM reference exchange documents and simply modify them to meet any unique data exchange needs, rather than having to build from scratch from the Global JXDM. These documents will save resources and link development efforts to emerging national and international standards, and support interoperability objectives among justice agencies.