Alternative Dispute Resolution has now supplanted litigation as the principal method of dispute resolution. This overview of dispute resolution addresses practical developments in areas such as family law, plea-bargaining, industrial relations and torts. The authors elaborate on the necessary legal safeguards that should be taken into account when developing technology-enhanced dispute resolution and explore a wide range of potential applications for new information technologies in dispute resolution.

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ENHANCED DISPUTE RESOLUTION THROUGH THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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# CONTENTS

**Preface**  
1 Introduction  
1.1 Fundamentals of dispute resolution  
1.1.1 Negotiation  
1.1.2 Mediation  
1.1.3 Arbitration  
1.1.4 Litigation  
1.2 Fairness and justice in Alternative Dispute Resolution  
1.3 How information technology can support dispute resolution  
1.4 The benefits of using information technology to support dispute resolution  
1.5 Who should read this book  
1.6 Outline of the book  

2 Norms for the use of technology in dispute resolution  
2.1 Introduction  
2.2 Literature on norms for Online Dispute Resolution  
2.3 Very general: fair-trial principle  
2.4 Norms for Alternative Dispute Resolution providers  
2.4.1 The European Union 1998 Recommendation on Arbitration  
2.4.2 The European Union 2001 Recommendation on Mediation  
2.4.3 The European Union 2008 Mediation Directive  
2.5 General legal requirements relating to online services
CONTENTS

2.5.1 European Union Directive 2000/31/EC on electronic commerce 32
2.5.2 European Directive 97/7/EC on distance selling 34
2.6 Requirements specifically drafted for ODR providers 35
2.7 Conclusion 38

3 Developing dispute resolution processes 39

3.1 Principles and theory of negotiation 39
  3.1.1 Negotiation analysis 39
  3.1.2 Principled Negotiation 41
  3.1.3 Developing BATNAs 42
  3.1.4 Using BATNAs to minimise optimistic overconfidence and reactive devaluation 43
  3.1.5 A checklist for negotiators 47
3.2 Using bargaining and game theory to provide negotiation decision support 48
  3.2.1 Game theory and utility functions 49
  3.2.2 Cake-cutting and fair division 51
3.3 Negotiation and risk management 52
3.4 Interest, justice and power-based negotiation 53
3.5 Developing negotiation decision support systems that promote constructive relationships following disputes 55
3.6 Negotiation planning – developing decision support systems that help avoid rather than settle disputes 58
3.7 Examples of negotiation decision support 59
  3.7.1 Australian family law and mediation 59
  3.7.2 Damages claims 64
  3.7.3 Business–consumer disputes 64
  3.7.4 Industrial relations 65
  3.7.5 Bargaining about charges and pleas 66
  3.7.6 Condominium disputes 70

4 Technologies for supporting dispute resolution 72

4.1 Introduction 72
4.2 Basic technology: synchronous and asynchronous 73
4.3 The major Online Dispute Resolution providers 74
  4.3.1 The ICANN UDRP 74
CONTENTS

4.3.2 Cybersettle 75
4.3.3 SquareTrade and eBay 76
4.4 The fourth party – the technology 77
4.5 The fifth party – the provider of the information technology 79
4.6 The nature of the technology used 79
4.7 When the third, fourth and fifth parties coincide 82
4.8 Matching technology with the process 84

5 Advanced intelligent technologies for dispute resolution 86
5.1 Intelligent decision support 86
5.2 Template-based negotiation support systems 88
5.3 Negotiation support systems based upon bargaining and game theory 91
  5.3.1 Adjusted Winner 91
  5.3.2 Smartsettle 94
  5.3.3 Family_Winner 97
5.4 Artificial intelligence and negotiation support systems 108
  5.4.1 The Split-Up system 111
  5.4.2 Split-Up as a negotiation support system 114
5.5 Extending interest-based bargaining 115
  5.5.1 The Family_Mediator system 115
  5.5.2 The AssetDivider system 118
  5.5.3 The Australian Telephone Dispute Resolution Service 121
  5.5.4 The Australian Online Family Dispute Resolution Service 124
5.6 The BEST-project: BATNA establishment using semantic web technology 125
5.7 InterNeg/INSPIRE 127
5.8 GearBi 132
5.9 Plea-bargaining 139

6 A three-step model for Online Dispute Resolution 146
6.1 The three-step model 146
6.2 BATNA establishment 147
6.3 Rational communication 148
  6.3.1 Lodder's approach to argumentation and negotiation 149
CONTENTS

6.3.2  Using the argument tool: an example involving family law 152
6.4  Game theoretic decision support 154
6.5  The integrated system 156
  6.5.1  Resolving disputes through dialogues 158
  6.5.2  Negotiation support through the use of compensation strategies and trade-offs 159
  6.5.3  The outcome of the dispute resolution process 159
6.6  Principles of fair negotiation 161
  6.6.1  Transparency 161
  6.6.2  Using bargaining in the shadow of the law in negotiation 165
  6.6.3  The negatives in using transparency and bargaining in the shadow of the law for negotiation support 166

7  Future prospects 168

  Glossary 171
  Bibliography 186
  Index 203
PREFACE

Having authors in the Netherlands and Australia collaborate on a book, despite the presence of the Internet, is always difficult. Fortunately VU University Amsterdam is close to Schiphol Airport, and John Zeleznikow regularly visited whenever he was in Europe for a conference. So Amsterdam was always en route from Australia: whether it was via Boston, Lisbon or Tel Aviv. We are grateful to the Australian Research Council and Victoria University for providing the funding for Professor Zeleznikow to visit Dr Lodder.

As with any worthwhile venture, this book relied upon the efforts of many to reach fruition. We are thankful to the countless individuals who contributed in a variety of ways.

Almost a decade ago, while Arno Lodder was just beginning his exploration of the field of technology-enhanced dispute resolution, he held an instructive discussion with two leading, ground-breaking figures in the field: Ethan Katsh and Colin Rule, who were then visiting The Hague. The discussions were invaluable and Dr Lodder and Professor Zeleznikow are very thankful for the regular dialogues they have held since then.

It is not possible to mention all those who collaborated on projects relevant to this book. However, important contributions to Dr Lodder’s work (listed in random order) are: Gerard Vreeswijk, Berry Zondag, Stephanie Bol, Frank van Harmelen, Michel Klein and Paul Huygen. His colleagues at VU Amsterdam University provided a rich and pleasant working environment, and in particular he had numerous stimulating discussions with Rob van den Hoven van Genderen.

Even though he passed away a decade before this book was envisaged, it was Don Berman’s sagacious advice and unbridled enthusiasm about the role of artificial intelligence to support the legal system that educated and encouraged John Zeleznikow to use information technology to support dispute resolution. Domenico Calabro at Victoria Legal Aid and Shane
Preface

Klintworth at Relationships Australia (Queensland) provided much legal and negotiation advice.

John’s Victoria University PhD students, Peter Condliffe, Deborah MacFarlane and Andrew Vincent, postdoctoral fellow Brooke Abrahams and collaborators Emilia Bellucci and Tania Sourdin provided invaluable advice and assisted in constructing negotiation support systems.

Without the loving dedication and patience of his parents Masha and Abram Zeleznikow, John would never have commenced his research career thirty-seven years ago.

But most of all John owes his successful completion of the book to his wonderful family. Eight-year-old Joseph looks lovingly over John’s New Inventors trophy and wants to emulate him. Whilst driving Ashley, Annie and Eva to cycling, lacrosse, water polo, athletics and theatrical performances, many negotiation strategies were developed and practised. Sarah was always available to give legal advice.

But John’s primary support for this project, as well as over the last eighteen years, was his gorgeous wife, Lisa. Without her generosity love, patience and warmth he would not have envisaged undertaking this monumental task. Without her, his life would be infinitely poorer.