

Data-Driven Law: Data Analytics and the New Legal Services

By Ed Walters, editor. (2019), 215 pages, ISBN:978-1-4987-6665-4. \$99.95

Subject: Subject-Area Legal Research

Useful for: Good primer on the basics of data analytics and their uses in the legal market.

Format: Chapters with index.

Reviewer's Comments:

It's best to approach this book with the same mindset that you would approach an assigned set of articles for a graduate school class. There is some cohesion between the articles, but the main goal seems to be to expose the reader to new major concepts like data mining, "Big Data," and artificial intelligence/machine learning. Some chapters are more successful than others, but certain core chapters give the reader a clear, broad introduction.

In Chapter One, Ed Walters sets out his argument for the book's existence: effective use of data analytics could drastically improve the legal industry, especially when so much time is spent on mundane tasks that could be streamlined with technology. Chapter Two shows how data mining might work practically in a law firm, including a subtle argument that the initial significant cost of creating and executing a data management plan will be outweighed by efficiency and the ability to rely on fact, rather than anecdotal instinct, when the project is complete.

Unfortunately, Chapter Nine covers a lot of the same ground later in the book, which feels a bit disjointed.

Chapters Three and Six show the reader how data analytics and machine learning are already being used in law firms—specifically in drafting contracts and electronic discovery. Chapter Six on how scientists have measured the accuracy of Technology-Assisted document review was particularly fascinating and accessible. To round out the highlights, Chapter Eight is an informal and pleasant crash course for those of us that did not major in statistics about precisely how each statistical model "proves" things in a somewhat fuzzy, scientific sense (until, of course, there is a general consensus of various similar data models).

While Chapters Ten and Five were interesting, they seemed a bit more off-topic to me than the previous chapters listed, and I wouldn't assign them if I were teaching from this book. Chapter Five in particular is highly theoretical and, as Eve Ross pointed out in her *Law Library Journal* review, it is available for free online with minor differences.¹ However, those chapters still

¹ Eve Ross, 111 *LAW LIBR. J.* 275, 275 (2019) (reviewing *DATA-DRIVEN: DATA ANALYTICS AND THE*

RIPS-SIS Legal Research Text Review

provide more added value than Chapters Four and Seven. Chapter Four—the longest chapter in the book—reads like a laundry list of random possible employment law implications of Big Data, with an emphasis on employee privacy. Chapter Seven is a somewhat interesting case study, but it reads more like an Avvo marketing tool than an academic paper.

Reviewed by: Savanna Nolan, Georgetown University Law Library, in 2019.

NEW LEGAL SERVICES, (Ed Walters ed., 2019)) (*citing* Stephen Wolfram, “Computational Law, Symbolic Discourse, and the AI Constitution,” STEPHEN WOLFRAM BLOG (Oct. 12, 2016), <https://blog.stephenwolfram.com/2016/10/computational-law-symbolic-discourse-and-the-ai-constitution/> [perma.cc/63EL-3P8k]).