



EDITOR'S NOTE

CHASING TECHNOLOGY

Staying Ahead of the Legal Curve

As I write this, I have just returned from the American Bar Association (ABA) TECHSHOW 2018. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join two panels as part of the somewhat new academic track, but that was really just an excuse to hear and see firsthand what lawyers, legal tech gurus, and vendors think are the current legal technology issues and what innovations might be on the horizon. (FYI—the planning group for the academic track did a great job. Expect even better things next year!)

As rapidly as technology is changing, I often feel that I am chasing the curve trying to keep up. Attending TECHSHOW was one way for me to try to close that gap. I not only learned a lot from the sessions I attended, but also from something as simple as perusing the program descriptions and walking the vendor marketplace. Several programs on security were offered, as well as the expected sessions on artificial intelligence, eDiscovery, and document automation. A series of programs were offered on process automation and management, as well as issues related to running a practice in the cloud, which provided crucial information for practicing, as well as future, lawyers. Even though I was unable to attend every program, I still learned what the hot issues are, what technology concerns lawyers today, and what new products are coming online. I have a better idea of what students need to know to prepare them to be competent lawyers.

If you, like me, are trying to keep up with the latest technology, I hope you find something new in this technology-themed issue. “What You Need to Know about Cybersecurity” is an excellent primer with easy-to-follow examples that help you understand the issues and terminology. You can also learn about the benefits of content intelligence tools and how they are being used to provide value to individual attorneys and work groups at firms.

Changes in the repository platform landscape are addressed in “Rethinking Digital Repositories & the Future of Open Access.” Newer models for publishing, particularly online, raise issues for properly attributing a work to its author. “Who Is This? Moving from Authority Control to Identity Management” makes the case for thinking more broadly than name authority control.

If you are looking for more avenues to help you stay current, make sure to read “Seeking New Members: Special Interest Groups Provide Unique Benefits for Law Librarians.” You may be inspired to join a new AALL Special Interest Section or Caucus, or find a local group focused on your area of interest. Finally, be inspired by the winners and finalists of the inaugural AALL Innovation Tournament who are working on projects as diverse as attorney-facing chatbots and a virtual reality lab. What technology innovations will we see at this year’s Innovation Tournament at AALL 2018? I look forward to seeing you there.

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