Having just returned from the International Legal Technology Association Conference (ILTACON) in Orlando, it is clear that interest in legal data science continues to grow at a rapid pace. As a member of the ILTACON Education Committee, I had the good fortune of curating the Legal Data Science series. Ed Walters, CEO of Fastcase, was one of the speakers, along with Dazza Greenwood, a professor at MIT who established The MIT Computational Law Report, an online publication that launched in September 2019. Their program focused on identifying various use cases of legal data analytics in legal practice and the need to educate lawyers and information professionals on becoming competent consumers of legal data analytics.

The takeaways from this program, coupled with the American Bar Association’s recent vote to urge the legal profession to address emerging legal and ethical issues of Artificial Intelligence (AI), make this month’s cover story “Inside the Black Box of Search Algorithms” extremely timely and relevant.

**How AI and Data Science Are Revolutionizing the Delivery of Legal Services**

For those of you who believe that AI and legal data science are still in their nascent stages, I strongly encourage you to adjust your mindset. In a recent *Forbes* article titled “Artificial Intelligence Further Exacerbates Inequality In Discrimination Lawsuits,” Patrick DiDomenico, CKO at Ogletree Deakins, is quoted as saying “LegalMation’s AI-powered litigation assistant is revolutionizing employment litigation by automating early discovery and litigation functions that historically have taken attorneys and paralegals several hours to complete … increasing the overall efficiency of our lawyers and lowering litigation costs for our clients.” (Read the *Forbes* article at bit.ly/ND19Forbes.) In fact, according to an article from Law360, the top three national labor and employment law firms (Jackson Lewis, Littler, and Ogletree) have already established legal data science departments, hiring chief data scientists and data analysts. These departments have implemented data analytics and AI tools that are not only being made available to firm lawyers to drive efficiency and better legal results, but are also increasingly being made available directly to clients.

In this issue of *AALL Spectrum*, we lay out an excellent vision for how law librarians and legal information professionals can translate data and analytics into insights and advisory knowledge to help law firms stay competitive. Just as critical, we also show how law librarians are leading the charge to help firms master legal data analytics and new legal technologies. Law schools such as Georgia State University College of Law are leading the way by teaching cutting-edge data analytics courses that prepare students for the legal jobs of tomorrow that will be using legal AI tools.

This fast-growing trend may well necessitate a discussion to incorporate legal data science and AI as core skill sets that all law librarians and legal information professionals will need to possess to be well equipped to instruct and support the next generation of lawyers. Let the debate begin!

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