

Expert insight



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Andrew joined Squire Patton Boggs in 2016 as an eDisclosure Project Manager in the London office. Mr. Haslam, formerly of Allvision Consulting which he founded in 1997, is a specialist in the field of eDisclosure and is well known throughout the UK eDisclosure community. Mr. Haslam has nearly 20 years' experience in eDisclosure matters and the technologies that support them, working on projects for law firms, clients and suppliers. He is a regular speaker at eDisclosure industry events and has written numerous white papers, op-ed pieces, and blog postings on eDisclosure issues. He is also known for his annual report on LegalTech and the Buyer's Guide to eDisclosure Systems.

Over the last five years, the eDiscovery marketplace has been maturing and consolidating. Notably, there has been a clear ratification that lawyers in this sphere should be expected to use computer-assisted review in order to get the best results for their clients.

With every development that enters the market, the entry standard for tools becomes even higher. Technologies, in order to compete, have to keep up with the rising tide of expected functionalities. With most providers largely demonstrating a similar set of basic functions, when considering technologies, we are increasingly looking at what analytics they provide in order to gain an advantage in this crowded field. Artificial intelligence solutions like Luminance are delivering on this end of the scale, and it's exciting to see intuitive tools that visualise vast quantities of data and help unearth key information in an entirely new way.

eDisclosure experts like myself will always be needed to provide insight and advice on how to utilise technology in order to get the best results, but the more lawyers can manipulate the tools they need, the better. It is clear that legal issues need to drive these investigations, not the requirements and restrictions of the technology. Focusing on the issues rather than onerous processes means the client's best interest is always front of mind. I always choose technology based on what the issues in the case are, and the location and type of data. The groundwork has been laid, but now comes the technology that can not only complete and expedite the job but make the user's life much easier.

It's all very well having 'whizzy tools' but it's important to find good technology that is fit for purpose and cost-effective. Providers shouldn't forget that small fixes can make huge differences, like mechanisms to minimise the risk of a redacted child being produced unredacted with the parent document, as these are the sorts of things that keep us up at night. Lawyers and eDisclosure experts need technology to keep in control of their review, which is increasingly difficult with the volumes of data we are working with today.