Hot Docs Found in Production Leads to Settlement



The Case

Avansic was assisting on a large document review for the plaintiffs in a class action suit.



The Challenge

The plaintiffs had less than one month to find the hot documents among three million documents that had been produced by the opposing parties.

The Proposed Solution

Avansic's project manager suggested a three-step process to get through this large document set within the limited time-frame.

First, remove near-dupes. Set a threshold of similarity and remove anything above that threshold.

Second, use a Predictive Coding workflow to target the review.

To create the first review set, the Avansic team would cluster the de-duplicated set and provide a Distributed Sample for review. This meant, pulling a representative sample of documents from all clusters to ensure the reviewers were seeing some of everything, both relevant and non-relevant.

The client had retained about 50 contract reviewers who performed their coding work overnight. Avansic applied the results of the contract reviewer coding to the predictive review process to find hot documents. From there, the client could use "more like this" to find even more relevant documents to continuously train the system. The reviewers were instructed to perform both hot document and irrelevant document coding (i.e., identify both the important documents and the

The Numbers

50 reviewers

2 weeks

3 million documents

In two weeks, 50 contract reviewers found the hot docs from 3 million documents and settlement talks began.

The Process

Near Dupe Identification

Clustering

Predictive Coding

Continuous Learning

Visualization



completely unimportant ones). This provided the machine learning engine with information needed to differentiate between on-target and off-target content.

Finally, the Avansic team would use the data visualization features in iCONECT-XERA to perform QC on the coding decisions of both the contract reviewers and the litigation teams from the firms throughout the process.

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Project Manager, Avansic



The Result

After two weeks, enough hot documents were located to support the plaintiffs' case. The parties entered into settlement talks.

The ability to use previously reviewed documents as the training set was key to the success of this workflow. With many systems, training is performed as a discrete activity. Though it might have taken only a few hours, the attorneys most knowledgeable about the issues did not have time to train the system. In iCONECT-XERA, we were able use the results of the contract reviewers' work to train the predictive coding engine.

The case ultimately settled out of court with a positive outcome for the plaintiffs.