

Call for Submissions

Fourth DESI Workshop on Setting Standards for Electronically Stored Information in Discovery Proceedings

A workshop held in conjunction with the
2011 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Law

June 6, 2011

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA USA

<http://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~oard/desi4/>

The DESI IV workshop is intended to provide a platform for discussion of best practices and standards for state-of-the-art search for electronic evidence in the context of civil discovery. Submissions are encouraged on emerging best practices for e-discovery search, with a particular focus on of the potential for the evolutionary development of standards. Among the questions we expect to address are:

1. How do key stakeholders in the e-discovery process conceptualize “search quality?” To what extent are those conceptualizations consistent?
 - a) Requesting parties
 - b) Responding parties
 - c) Outside counsel
 - d) In-house counsel
 - e) IT/Information management staff
 - f) E-Discovery vendors and consultants
 - g) Judges
2. What is within and what is beyond the scope of “search quality” in the context of e-discovery?
 - a) Well-crafted production requests
 - b) Comprehensive access to data sources, custodians, and data types
 - c) Accounting for dynamically changing collections
 - d) Transparency
 - e) Documentation
3. What measures can be used to enhance search quality?
 - a) Early case assessment
 - b) Interdisciplinary teams
 - c) Referral process to lead attorney for judgment calls
 - d) Iterative refinement
 - e) Sampling and estimation
4. To what extent is search quality dependent on:
 - a) Effective automation
 - b) Effective processes for using those automated techniques
 - c) The interaction between the two?

5. To what extent are these issues new in the context of Electronically Stored Information (ESI) and to what extent have they always been good practice even in earlier times?
6. What processes are in use today for stakeholders to communicate about search quality in the context of e-discovery?
 - a) How do law firms and corporate counsel choose between vendors of legal services?
 - b) How do e-discovery service providers choose between vendors of software?
7. What kinds of “standards” are needed to help improve mutual understanding of what was actually done, and to actually help improve “search quality?”
 - a) Is a single standard needed? A family of standards? Multiple competing standards?
 - b) How granular should such “standards” be?
 - c) To what extent should such a standard incorporate specific benchmark tasks for which threshold levels of effectiveness must be demonstrated?
 - d) What means for certifying compliance with such standards would be appropriate?
8. What can we learn from existing standards and standards setting processes, such as the:
 - a) ISO 9000 family of international quality measurement system standards
 - b) Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard
 - c) Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70: Service Organizations
 - d) Capability Maturity Model Integration
 - e) Transaction Processing Performance Council’s benchmarks
 - f) NIST Computer Forensics Tool Testing Program
 - g) Department of Defense Joint Interoperability Test Command Records Management Application
 - h) Internet Request for Comments (RFC) process

Participation is invited from all interested parties, including those with backgrounds in:

- Archives and records management
- Artificial intelligence and law
- Cognitive science
- Content analytics
- Computational linguistics
- Digital forensics
- Legal sensemaking
- Human-computer interaction
- Human language technology
- Information retrieval
- Knowledge management
- Legal informatics
- Litigation support
- Standards
- Text mining

Submissions:

Two types of written contributions are invited:

- Brief (typically 1-2 page) position papers describing individual interests, for inclusion (without review) on the DESI IV Web site and distribution to workshop participants. Brief descriptions of this type are particularly valuable when bringing together diverse research communities. Additionally, these papers can help with our selection of discussants, discussion leaders, and panelists. Position papers are requested by April 22, 2011. Participation in the workshop is open, so prior submission of position papers is strongly encouraged, but not strictly required.
- Original papers (4-10 pages) describing research or practice. After peer review, accepted papers will be posted on the DESI IV website and made available in hard-copy to workshop participants. Authors of accepted research papers will be invited to present their work either as an oral or a poster presentation. Research papers are due on April 1, 2011; decisions will be returned by April 29, 2011.

Submissions should be sent by email to Doug Oard (oard@umd.edu) with the subject line DESI IV POSITION PAPER or DESI IV RESEARCH PAPER. All submissions received will be acknowledged within 3 days.

Organizing Committee:

Jason R. Baron, National Archives and Records Administration, USA

Laura Ellsworth, Jones Day, USA

Dave Lewis, David D. Lewis Consulting, USA

Debra Logan, Gartner Research, UK

Douglas W. Oard, University of Maryland, USA