Ashurst, Integreon and OpenText pioneer Predictive Coding in UK litigation

OpenText™ Axcelerate™ combines continuous machine learning and process-driven review to dramatically reduce time and effort.

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James Levy
Partner
Ashurst LLP

Results

- **Eliminated 700,000** documents from review through stronger case preparation
- **Decreased** overall review effort by nearly one-third using machine learning
- **Optimized** attorney productivity using intelligent services in concert with technology
Ashurst LLP, a leading international law firm with nearly 2,000 lawyers worldwide, represented a financial services company in a lawsuit alleging negligence by its auditing firm. Ashurst selected OpenText to provide an eDiscovery platform and the managed services necessary to support a large-scale document review. In parallel, Ashurst engaged Integreon to staff a team of legal document reviewers that, at peak, totaled 80 people.

The firm sought to keep costs down and to identify key documents quickly for case preparation, goals that were challenged by the sheer volume of the data set and the fact that data delivery to Ashurst and OpenText was rolling over several months. A pressing timetable of aggressive disclosure obligations made linear, manual document review inefficient, expensive and unlikely to meet the deadline. The Ashurst team consulted OpenText about using advanced analytics and, in particular, Predictive Coding to reach its goals and disclosure deadline. With Axcelerate’s continuous machine learning, combined with well-developed workflows for the complex case, the firm could meet its deadlines while prioritizing the identification of key documents.

Leveraging the Axcelerate platform, OpenText™ Managed Services developed two parallel workflows. First, the Integreon document review team, supervised by Ashurst’s attorneys, began reviewing documents identified through advanced analytics and legal acumen. Second, the results of that review were used to train Axcelerate’s patented Predictive Coding technology and initiate a concurrent, machine learning-powered, prioritized review.

Under the second workflow, Axcelerate’s continuous machine learning suggested documents that were likely relevant for priority review by Integreon’s team. With each iteration, the results of human review were used to refine the Predictive Coding engine’s training, improving the relevance of the next suggested document set and continuously increasing reviewer efficiency. As the presence of relevant documents in the set that was not yet reviewed fell to near zero, it became apparent that human review of the remaining documents would be a waste of time, effort and money.

Throughout the review, OpenText and Integreon’s data science and project management experts guided the Ashurst legal team regarding technology, best practices and defensibility. When the opposing parties posed specific challenges, OpenText consultants supported the solicitors and barristers as they represented to the court the efficacy of using the Predictive Coding to honor disclosure deadlines, while keeping costs in check.

Eyes-on review effort reduced

With Axcelerate’s continuous machine learning, the eyes-on review was averted for some 700,000 documents. Ashurst Partner, James Levy, who led the legal team, said, “When handled expertly, Predictive Coding is a mature, robust and effective strategy. In this instance, it allowed us to save our client the cost of the unnecessary review of some 700,000 irrelevant documents.”
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Fast, insightful review

With a prioritized review workflow, the team not only met all its production deadlines, but completed the initial disclosure review in just four months. Because the dual workflow leveraged Axcelerate’s flexible, continuous machine learning, the staggered data delivery posed no impediments to the Predictive Coding process, and the large review teams at Integreon and Ashurst could work quickly and productively.

Intelligent services and advanced technology

The teamwork between OpenText and Integreon improved the review process for Ashurst by combining the intelligence and legal expertise of human reviewers with the speed and accuracy of continuous machine learning. Integreon’s Global Head, Onshore Managed Review, Caragh Landry, acknowledged the value of this partnership, “With the recent ruling in Pyrrho Investments Ltd v MWB Property Ltd. authorizing the use of Predictive Coding, we expect to utilize it more often, as it combines advanced analytics with process-driven review to deliver more efficient, cost-effective outcomes for our clients.”

About OpenText

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