

E-discovery's booming growth

Introducing e-discovery

In today's scenario, advances in technology have proven to be exceedingly rapid. In the said context, there is more electronic information used and available than paper. This indeed has created a sea change in different functions of society. This includes one of the oldest professions of the world, litigation. Electronic discovery is the process that involves producing relevant and vital electronically stored information in the form of video, audio and written documents to adversaries in litigation. As the world of internet expands and develops, more and more activities happen to occur on computer screens. Accordingly, e-discovery has ceased the day. This article aims to give a peek into the rate at which this new model of e-discovery is growing.

Statistics of electronic information

Firstly, let us have a look at where we stand with regard to electronic information; the world sends over sixty million emails every day and ninety percent of all documents generated today are electronic. A report has even shown us that a single hard drive can store information equivalent to forty million pages.¹ The very simplicity and capacity of electronic information based on the above mentioned statistics displays the potential of e-discovery in the market today.

Statistics of e-discovery market growth

Next, Transparency Market Research published a report, eDiscovery (Software and Service) Market – Global Scenario, Trends, Industry Analysis, Size, Share and Forecast, 2010 – 2017. The highlights of the report² showing the growth expectation and present trends of the e-discovery market are as follows;

- The e-discovery market growth is expected to be at the rate of 275% till 2017.
- The U.S. portion of e-discovery market was valued at \$3 billion in 2010 and is expected to reach \$7 billion by the year, 2017.

¹ <http://legalcareers.about.com/od/careertrends/a/ediscovery.htm>

² <http://www.ediscoverydaily.com/2012/08/ediscovery-trends-the-growth-of-ediscovery-is-transparent.html>

- Presently, 73% of e-discovery market share is with the United States and is expected to increase its share over the years. It is the largest user of electronic information.
- The report also states that the global software based e-discovery is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.5% to reach 2.5 billion dollars by 2017 and the global services based e-discovery market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 17% to reach 7.4 billion dollars by 2017.

Evidence speaks for itself

The above listed statistical information is evidence enough and speaks for itself the rate at which e-discovery is growing. Technology has become increasingly user-friendly and has caused more and more companies to join the e-discovery family. And, industry experts have gone on to label e-discovery as the future of litigation around the world.

The reason behind the growth

The most important reason to the growth of e-discovery is the number of civil litigations cases pending in courts today. The number of cases is on a constant increase and electronically stored information and its transfer is an easier aid to litigators on both sides. Moreover, it reduces man power. Increasing number of firms are relying on the 'less is more' concept. Accordingly, to operate e-discovery lesser number of lawyers is needed on the table of any law firm thereby reducing the cost of man power. When both the pros and cons of e-discovery is weighed against each other, experts have continuously noticed that utilising e-discovery technology has proved more beneficial than working without it. Therefore, it is safe to say that e-discovery is destined to grow for a long period of time.