Educating E-Discovery Litigation Support Professionals

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Abstract

E-Discovery is the process in civil litigation through which one party to a lawsuit requests digital evidence from the other. In this workshop we will learn about e-discovery education offerings in a variety of academic settings, and we will discuss the place of education for e-discovery professionals in iSchools.

Keywords: e-discovery, education

Introduction

The past decade has seen explosive growth in the need for “discovery” of digital information held by one party in to lawsuit in response to a request posed by a counterparty. In less than a decade, “e-discovery” has become a multi-billion dollar industry and a substantial driver in the cost of civil litigation. No current degree programs at any level are designed specifically to educate e-discovery professionals, so employers presently recruit from many source disciplines (e.g., forensics, business schools, and law schools). iSchools seem like natural homes for such programs: some of us offer joint degrees with our law schools, others share a campus with one of the 42 law schools that offer an e-discovery course, and still others have faculty who have published on e-discovery.

Overview of the Program

The program will include presentations from e-discovery thought leaders, from professionals who employ litigation support staff, and from faculty who have taught e-discovery courses. Small-group sessions focused on curriculum design for one-course offerings, and on program design for more extensive offerings, will offer opportunities for close engagement between participants and presenters.

Outcomes

Expected outcomes of this workshop will be an understanding of this opportunity, some insight into what shape such programs might take, and a community of like-minded faculty who can share ideas and resources.

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