

How Law Firm Saved Energy Company Time & Money Using TAR



DISCOVERY OVERVIEW



4.8 Million Docs
Produced



Depositions
Scheduled for
65 Witnesses



Only 2 Months
Until Depositions

THE BACKGROUND

Client law firm represented a U.S. power company in litigation with one of its providers of systems, where power company claimed the products/services provided failed and caused damages.

The parties in the litigation collected documents from hundreds of custodians, which yielded many millions of documents. In an effort to reduce the number of documents both sides would have to produce, the parties agreed to limit the number of custodians and apply search terms to filter out some of the non-responsive documents. This reduced the number of records substantially, but still yielded approximately 4.8 million records between the two parties.

THE PROBLEM

In most cases, parties will cull their document collections by date, source and keywords and review for responsiveness and privilege. In this case, the parties decided to run privilege terms to filter out privileged documents and not review for responsiveness to expedite the document production process. Although this workflow did speed up the exchange of documents between the parties, it initially meant that both sides did not really have a good sense of what they produced. Therefore, upon production our client not only had to review documents produced by opposing counsel for responsiveness, but also had to conduct a responsive review of their own documents. Also, opposing counsel's production had not been reviewed by opposing counsel for responsiveness, and in conducting this responsive review of opposing counsel's production our client did not have the benefit of having done a prior responsive review of their own documents.

Due to the large number of documents and the tight deposition schedule, batching 4.8 million documents and having attorneys review those documents would have taken too much time and an estimated 5 million dollars. There had to be a better way to prioritize and review the document collection.



STRATEGIC
LEGAL SOLUTIONS >

THE SOLUTION

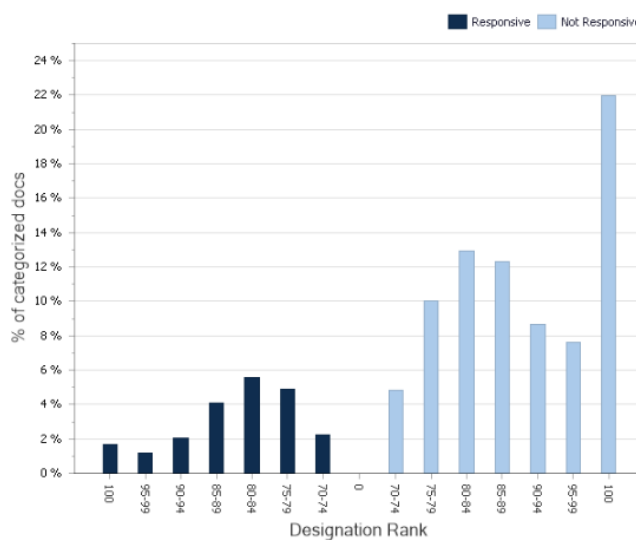
The Team needed a way to find the most responsive documents to review without having to review every document. Strategic's solution was to utilize Technology Assisted Review (TAR) within Strategic's Relativity instance to conceptually categorize and rank the documents.

Technology Assisted Review or TAR is a workflow that utilizes a special text indexing method called Latent Symantec Indexing (LSI). LSI organizes documents in a collection by grouping conceptually similar documents together. Once documents are grouped together by concept, the system will look at sample documents coded by the Team as responsive and non-responsive (these are often referred to as "seeds") and mark conceptually similar documents as responsive or non-responsive respectively.

The next step in the process is quality control. During this process, the system serves up documents that have been categorized by the system as responsive or non-responsive for the Team to review. If the Team and the system categorize the documents the same, then the system knows it is doing a good job. However, if the Team and the system categorize the documents differently, the system adjusts how it is categorizing.

In addition, TAR can rank documents in terms of how likely a document is responsive or non-responsive. If a document is very conceptually similar to a seed, it is assigned a very high ranking (e.g. 98% Responsive) and if it is less conceptually similar to a seed, it is assigned a lower ranking (e.g. 72% Responsive). In this case, the ranking was key in prioritizing the collection to allow the review Team to look at the most responsive documents first. Therefore, the workflow assisted both in prioritizing the review and eliminating a significant percentage of the documents from the review.

Designation Rank Distribution: Round RAR_email_025





THE RESULT

The Team started with 4.8 million production documents between the two parties. The TAR project workflow served up 12,000 documents for seeding and quality control. Once the review Team reviewed these documents, the system coded the rest of the 4.8 million documents (a small percentage of documents could not be categorized by the system) as either responsive or non-responsive and assigned a ranking. Next, the Team ran searches to look for documents pertaining to the witnesses scheduled for deposition, with the witnesses scheduled first as a priority. The searches were filtered by the responsiveness ranking the system assigned to the documents in the TAR workflow so that the Team looked at documents between 90% and 100% likely to be responsive. This reduced the total document count for review to under 800k documents, allowing the review Team to prepare for each deposition.

Without the use of TAR it would have been difficult, if not impossible to review 4.8 million documents in 2 months in preparation for depositions. By using TAR to prioritize and significantly reduce the number of documents to review, the Team saved time and money. The Team helped the client to achieve a successful and timely result and saved an estimated 4 million dollars by not having to review an additional 4 million documents.

HOW THIS HELPS YOU

TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ *Electronic Document Processing*
- ◆ *SEE-ECA our custom ECA tool within Relativity*
- ◆ *Relativity Hosting*
- ◆ *Structural & Conceptual Analytics included with Relativity Hosting*
- ◆ *Dynamic Integrated Dashboards for Business Intelligence included with Relativity Hosting*

SERVICES

- ◆ *eDiscovery - Consulting, Processing, Hosting and Production*
- ◆ *SEE-ECA our custom ECA tool within Relativity*
- ◆ *Computer Forensics*
- ◆ *Managed Document Review*
- ◆ *Document Review Staffing*
- ◆ *Legal Staffing*