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ZL Unified Archives Announces Update with Eye Toward ECA, Data Visualization

The updates position the company to meet demand for early data management and analytics.

Ricci Dipshan, Legaltech News

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ZL Technologies announced an update to its ZL Unified Archive information governance and e-discovery platform that implements early data analytics and a more intuitive and visual interface. The update comes months after [ZL Technologies](#) announced for its platform the addition of an independent legal hold, parallel indexing for multiple cases, and batch processing for custodian preservation for the platform.

Included in ZL Unified Archive's updates are enhanced early case assessment capabilities through advanced hierarchical tagging and email threading, which is the process of identifying relationships in email threads, based on the sender's information, attachments and other factors.

Other changes include a revamped user interface with the aim to achieve greater ease of use, more detailed data visualization at earlier stages in the e-discovery process, and iterative keyword analytics and reporting to help practitioners track and evaluate searches.

Hemanth Salem, information governance and analytics leader at ZL Technologies, noted that ZL Unified Archive's ECA capability is pivotal in the review processes as it "provides a higher level of precision in culling information than TAR [technology-assisted review] and predictive coding alone, leading to an even more accurate set of data entering into the review process."

It also "provides an extra layer of defensibility, since the human search parameters and settings can be documented more easily than the computation process of a proprietary review platform," he added.

While ECA might be believed to be obsolete given that "predictive coding is still viewed as a black box by counsel," Salem said "the notion that ECA, TAR, and predictive coding are mutually exclusive is misleading, since all of the processes are complementary. True ECA seeds information that can later be used for predictive coding, thus enhancing the accuracy and efficacy of whatever review method is chosen."

ZL Technologies is one of a number of [companies](#) in move to leverage the power of data analytics to aid decision-making, which Salem explained goes a long way in allowing lawyers to focus on more analytical tasks.

"In essence, good visualization helps allocate e-discovery tasks based on proficiency, leaving computers to do what they're good at—performing exact, repeated functions on large data sets—and leaving

attorneys to do what they're good at—interpreting the results in context of the case."

The updates to ZL Unified Archive positions ZL Technologies to take advantage of what Salem believes is a shift in the industry toward early data management and classification.

He explained that "as organizations begin to move towards consolidation of informational assets, they realize that many e-discovery tools are redundant, overlapping, and disjointed. As information governance practices become better established within an organization, so does—by virtue—the first step of the EDRM."

"This is no coincidence; With central information governance established, all other data manipulation functionality can be brought directly to the data, to the far left. Information governance forms the foundation of e-discovery rather than a true 'step,' so building in full e-discovery functionality seamlessly within the information governance platform is the Holy Grail for legal functionality," he said.

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