

HARBOR

**OVERCOMING DOCUMENT COLLECTION
CHALLENGES IN LEGACY SYSTEMS FOR
LITIGATION**

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Summary

In the fast-paced world of litigation, legal teams must efficiently manage vast amounts of documents to build strong cases and satisfy discovery obligations. Over the last several years, the field of e-discovery has advanced at a breakneck pace. While the latest technical advances have streamlined discovery practices, they have also led to several misconceptions.

One of the common misconceptions in e-discovery is that older document repositories or legacy databases are incompatible with modern systems, and that data housed in legacy systems cannot be collected, reviewed, or produced without significant expense and manual review.

The reason why this is a misconception is that almost all databases—regardless of age—allow users to export data. This means users are not bound by the limited search or index functionality of their corporate database, but can instead take advantage of everything modern e-discovery has to offer, including text recognition (OCR), document indexing, and convenient production protocols.



Exporting data from legacy systems is not complicated, and, in most cases, can be done quickly and cheaply. With the assistance of an e-discovery professional, clients can transfer terabytes or even petabytes of data into a fully equipped e-discovery platform in a matter of days, at which point they will have access to the full slate of discovery tools. These kinds of exports are now commonplace in e-discovery, and can even take place without taking the underlying system offline or otherwise disrupting business operations. This dramatically improves accessibility and accuracy, even when working with poorly structured databases or paper-based records.

Cloud-based platforms and eDiscovery solutions further enhance document collection by centralizing data from multiple sources, including legacy systems, emails, file servers, and collaboration tools. These platforms integrate advanced search capabilities, leveraging natural language processing (NLP) and analytics to surface relevant information faster and more accurately. Even in cases where native search functionalities are lacking, modern tools can extract and structure data efficiently, minimizing manual labor and reducing the risk of oversight. For hardcopy documents, OCR technology enables the conversion of scanned pages into searchable text, making paper-based files more accessible and easier to incorporate into digital workflows.

By adopting modernized document collection strategies, law firms and corporate legal departments can overcome the limitations of outdated databases and streamline their litigation workflows. Implementing these technologies not only reduces the burden of document retrieval but also enhances compliance, reduces costs, and improves case outcomes. Investing in these solutions ensures legal teams can confidently navigate the complexities of litigation without being hindered by ineffective legacy systems or cumbersome paper-based processes.



For organizations looking to improve their discovery approaches, processes and methods Harbor is the easiest eDiscovery company to work with. Our clients benefit from the right technology, deployed at the optimal stage, for the most cost-effective outcomes. Our reliable, service-centric team simply partners with you to provide smart solutions. Harbor, Simply Smart eDiscovery.