Narrative Analysis Search Strategy CASE STUDIES

Investigatory Early Case Evaluation

Goal: To assess and retrieve relevant content to aid pre-litigation investigation

Prism was retained to provide support in an insurance subrogation investigation pertaining to claims of a design / construction failure. Prior to any legal filings, the client hired an expert to prepare an analysis and damage assessment.

Rather than a standard eDiscovery production, Prism's initial tasks included two surgical data mining exercises: First, to find the most useful and appropriate documents for the expert to review for his report; and second, to locate an even more targeted set of documents necessary to respond to an informal Request for Information (RFI) from the subcontractors' counsel. The goal was to provide the information necessary to allow both teams to address their needs, without exerting wasted or duplicative efforts on a burdensome document review.

The data collected consisted of 10 custodians and two sources of data:

- Microsoft Outlook, with a 4-year date limit
- Proprietary project management system used by the construction teams

The initial document corpus after processing was 488,152 documents, which were loaded into Relativity ECA.

Based on the Narrative Analysis Search Strategy (NASS) designed by Prism, in consultation with the client and the expert, an initial set of 16 narratives were created to address the expert's research needs and the subcontractor's RFI. The searches based on those narratives resulted in 36,493 documents — **a 93% reduction in volume.**

> Original # of documents: 488,152
> Final Review Set: 36,493
> Reduction: 93%

Expert Data Mining

Goal: To refine document search for expert analysis

Upon further discussion with the expert to more narrowly define the specifics of his report requirements, Prism created an additional set of narratives for the 36K set. Our consultant worked with the expert to target by source, date, and file path information to further reduce the volume of documents needed for his analysis, and designed an effective review workflow which prioritized those results. The new narratives identified 14,552 documents covering 12 targeted topics — resulting in a **97% reduction from the initial 488K dataset**.

Based on the expert's findings and corresponding evidence, counsel opted to select a mediation track to drive accelerated resolution of the matter.

> The volume of documents for the expert to review were reduced by 97% and categorized and prioritized into 12 targeted topics.

Goal: To provide relevant documents in response to a pre-litigation RFI

A similar exercise was conducted to identify a narrow set of documents for review to respond to a Request for Information from the subcontractor's counsel. Frequently in these situations, the task isn't to find every relevant document, but to find enough key information to answer the questions. Prism created very narrow, targeted searches, which resulted in a very small but precise set of documents. These searches produced 522 documents for this exercise. Of those, 403 were identified as relevant to the subcontractor's request, with only 23 documents tagged as not relevant (all remaining documents withheld for privilege). **The relevancy rate for this data mining exercise was 95%.**

> Precise narrative refinements produced 522 documents, of which 95% were deemed relevant for the RFI.

The Power of Prism's Narrative Analysis Search Strategy

Use Cases

Prism's Narrative Analysis Search Strategy (NASS) is greatly beneficial in a wide range of use cases, including:

- Internal investigations
- Early case strategy
- Negotiation support (meet and confer, search terms, ESI protocol)
- Inclusionary or exclusionary relevancy sampling of datasets
- Targeted collection
- Locating relevant content for inbound production requests and RFIs
- Expert report preparation
- Review acceleration
- Incoming production assessment
- Deposition preparation and witness kits

Summary

NASS goes far beyond the standard use of search terms. Narratives are not created in a vacuum like typical searches, but are designed based on the specific requirements, claims and defenses, or topics of the project at hand. Whether the goal is to retrieve all relevant documents with optimal precision and recall, or simply enough relevant documents to answer questions, using Prism's unique narrative search can meet your needs quickly and precisely. Working with your team, Prism can produce narratives and searches in 8-10 hours of consulting time.

To speak with one of Prism's Narrative Analysis Search Strategy experts,

please contact us at info@prismlit.com.