

# The Power of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Research

In 2019, the [ABA Legal Technology Survey](#) reported that only 8% of respondents were using resources with artificial intelligence (AI). In a few short years, however, AI has become a focal point in conversation within the legal industry and beyond. With the rise of new generative AI-powered technologies like ChatGPT, awareness and usage of AI is increasing as well. As a result, legal professionals are asking questions like:

- How will AI change the tools and resources I currently use?
- How can I use AI to my advantage?
- Should I feel empowered or threatened by AI?

Chances are, you're already using AI in some areas of your legal practice — whether that be for case search, client management, document preparation, or some combination of these. For example, in 2019, LexisNexis released Lexis® Analytics, an AI-backed analytics solution, and users began discovering how AI can help identify legal issues and facts, and craft legal strategy faster and more cost-effectively. Now, generative AI — the type of AI that powers tools like ChatGPT — is on the verge of changing the way you research again.

More than ever, the questions posed above are critical, and we're here to help you find answers. This article details how AI can be used in the legal industry, offering examples, resources, and tips.

## But first — what exactly is artificial intelligence?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to learn, problem-solve, make decisions, and understand language — all tasks typically performed by (you guessed it) humans. In contrast to pre-programmed machines, AI utilizes techniques such as machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision to process and analyze vast amounts of data, meaning these machines can learn and adapt on their own, without human intervention.

While this may sound unnerving, AI ultimately serves as a tool to aid you in working more efficiently. AI won't replace attorneys, but it can help legal professionals achieve new heights in their careers. The key question, of course, is how?

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## Artificial Intelligence in Law

Simply stated, AI-powered legal research platforms can help you do billable work faster, allowing you to spend more time putting that research to good use by counseling clients, negotiating with opposing counsel, or performing other higher-level work. This is particularly important for attorneys who provide their services on a flat-fee or contingency-fee basis, where more time spent on legal research could lead to lower profit margins.

AI in the legal technology industry has historically been more "extractive," meaning it's been generally used to crawl and pull information from a large database; however, with major recent developments in "generative" AI, legal technology is beginning to not only pull information but also create new, original content. This means you'll see AI's capabilities employed in a variety of angles including:

- Natural language processing (NLP) for legal documents
- Predictive analytics for case outcomes
- Legal research search engines
- Contract analysis and management
- E-Discovery identification and classification
- Compliance monitoring
- Intellectual property process automation and search
- Litigation analysis
- Risk assessment
- Sentiment analysis
- Conversational search – powered by generative AI
- Summarization of search results – powered by generative AI
- Document drafting – powered by generative AI

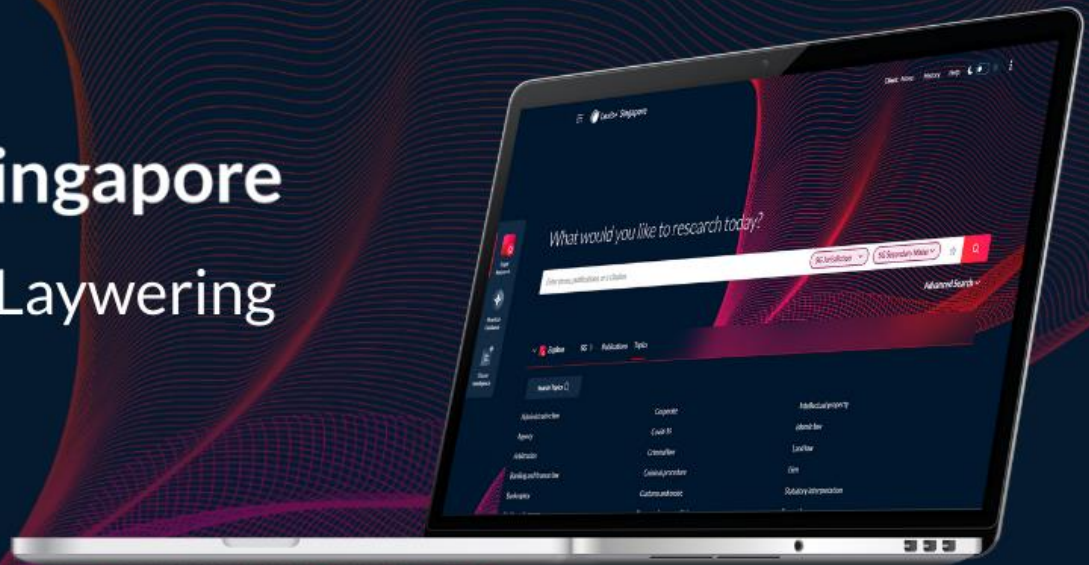
Currently, there are several legal tech solutions that utilize extractive AI, and generative AI capabilities are expected to become increasingly available this year. We discuss a few of these tools in detail below.

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