Welcome to Legal Technology Island

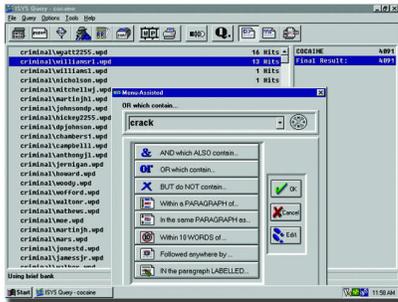## To survive, you need the best litigation support tools.

By Milton Hooper

Full-text Searching

Searching for specific text can be aggravating, like looking for drinking water in the middle of the ocean. This is where imaging pays off. If you have imaged your documents, you can go a step further to search for text. In most imaging processes, you can code your images with specific information (*i.e.,* names, dates, type of document) or you can have the text recognized by OCR.

No software can be 100 percent accurate in recognizing each character of text. Fortunately, for those trying to survive in the world of imaging and OCR, text searching tools have become increasingly accurate. You might not quench your thirst immediately, but some of these programs will help you find refreshment.

ISYS Desktop
Odyssey Development Inc.
(800) 992-4797
www.isysusa.com
Cost: $495 (single user), $1,395 (3 users), $28,000 (100 users)
Pros: Easy to perform queries. You can index documents from a hard drive, network drive, CD-ROM or optical disks.
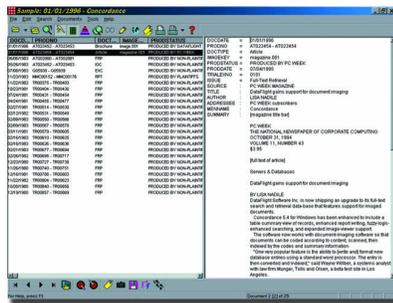Cons: Expensive for firms on a tight budget.

When you can't waste time, you want ISYS on your island. ISYS Desktop can manage scanned documents and index them easily for quick searches. The query function lists buttons for connectors such as "and" or "within the same sentence."

ISYS is functional for any volume of data. In my tribe ISYS is a useful tool in assisting litigation and maintaining our brief bank. When in-house imaging is feasible, we can image and perform OCR on our documents using an existing scanning station and transferring the TIFF and .txt files to a CD or network drive. From there, we put ISYS into action by indexing the documents and creating a database catalog for the information so anyone on our network can perform a query. This is useful if more than one attorney is working on a case. I can update the index from my office and make it available to everyone immediately.

For our brief bank, our tribe sends the brief in electronic format to our paralegal who adds it to the ISYS brief bank. Then if someone finds a brief in his or her search, he or she easily can copy or open WordPerfect directly from the ISYS toolbar – all without affecting the original brief.

Concordance 7.12
Dataflight Software Inc.
(310) 471-3414
www.dataflight.com
Cost: $995
Pros: Offers the feel of a Web browser. Excellent power to search multiple databases.
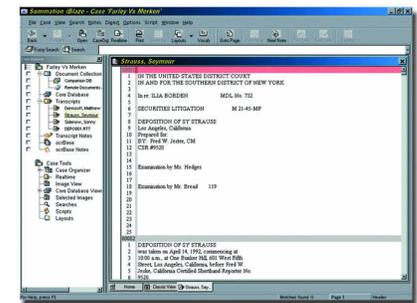Con: Takes time to learn search methods.

Concordance has been on the island a long time and has yet to be voted off. The reason: Concordance is extremely popular with law offices in its full-text search capabilities.

Concordance retrieves records in massive full-text databases in seconds. Records can contain full text and date, numeric and fixed-length text fields. The Concordance searching feature can search document text, OCR and coded data simultaneously. It supports "and," "or" and "not," as well as a full set of context, proximity and relational search operators to narrow your search. In survivor terms, Concordance can search any way you want to search. Concordance has a large database capacity, allowing users to search 128 databases simultaneously. Each record can contain up to 8MB of full text. You also can load and update the database while it's being searched in real-time. Once records have been retrieved, Concordance provides several wizards to assist with report printing, issue coding and tagging, editing, exporting, sorting and viewing documents. If you are a Web surfer, you can feel comfortable using this version of Concordance.

For road warriors, Concordance didn't ignore your needs. The replication function synchronizes records between various databases, so your laptop's database will get all of the changes made to the database on the network whenever you connect. By teaming with iConect, Concordance also offers Web-enabling capabilities.

Summation iBlaze
Summation Legal Technologies Inc.
(800) 735-7866
www.summation.com
Cost: $2,495
Pros: Adaptable to the Internet and searching multiple databases. Look and feel resembles Microsoft Outlook.
Con: Expensive. Big learning curve.

Summation is another longtime Legal Technology Island resident. Now it's known as iBlaze, part of the LG product line, and includes the functions of Summation Blaze, plus online or offline capabilities with case information. The desktop resembles Windows Explorer while allowing you to view Summation as a home page or the classic file drawer view. The case explorer breaks down a case by transcripts, document collections, images, notes and more. It can be overwhelming until you get accustomed to maneuvering in the program. Once comfortable with the program, you can customize and reorganize case components within the searchable Case Tools areas.

If you have a lot of transcripts, the ability to find important points is essential. The "Transcript Notes" feature will let you attach electronic notes at specific page and line locations.

The searching mechanism can be tricky because there are several ways to conduct searches, such as by individual or multiple transcripts, or transcript notes. Annotations can be searched and sorted, as well. Once you pick up on the variations to search your text, you will dominate the use of full-text searching techniques in Summation.

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Installation	🌴🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴
Ease of use	🌴🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴
Cost	🌴🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴	🌴
Internet/intranet use	🌴🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴
Learning curve	🌴🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴🌴	🌴🌴