**Managing the Explosion of Information**

**(Is this the new horizon for KM professionals?)**

As KM professionals, managing information is a given - what are the best documents for lawyers to use, what deals have a value of over $500 million, how is information classified, etc., etc., etc.? With the increasing volume of information to manage, especially in a culture that generally limits how much cooperation KM receives from the very people who benefit from it, how can you ensure that your lawyers are finding the information they need?

At eSentio, we have given considerable thought to these issues. The term "Data Management" is now resonating with CIOs, because, frankly, they admit that they don't know where all data resides, nor who even owns the data. The term "Information Governance" is also blowing up for GCs as firms grapple with the need to meet regulatory and privacy guidelines that demand a firm know where data is, who owns it, and whether can it easily be identified and managed.

While KM has grown as a function over the years, so too has the data, its value, its volume, and the firm's need to manage and protect it. We are working with forward-looking clients now to see how AI and search tools can aid in the process of managing the large volumes, and often times completely unstructured data. Although there are many Data Management tools coming on the market that attempt to identify and create some order out of the many data sources residing in a firm, most firms haven't yet achieved the ability to find particular information across the platforms of the firm without very cumbersome and costly efforts. While there are an array of new technologies that can assist in the data management challenge, there are also some existing technologies that have made significant advancements that can be repurposed to achieve significant results in this area.

In comes Enterprise Search (ES) to the rescue, yes, again. When ES was in vogue, almost every KM professional wanted it - it was the holy grail. While there remain many excellent implementations of ES today, many waned as firms realized that ES is only a tool and without real user adoption, it wasn't worth it. We believe that ES is undergoing a transformation and resurgence now. The latest technologies working in the cloud change the landscape and perhaps move us closer to that holy grail once again.

eSentio's leading KM and Enterprise Search practice is experiencing significant growth as many firms realize now that data management is overwhelming them, and ES can be an effective tool in not only finding the right document, pinpointing precedents, and uncovering firm experience, but also playing a pivotal role in solving a firm's overall data management challenges. Please reach out if you have questions about how this might work in your firm.