ILTA’s Education Council has identified four priorities for 2024.

1. Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLM)

Generative AI and large language models represent a transformative frontier in legal technology, necessitating their prioritization within educational programming for ILTA. These models, powered by advanced machine learning algorithms, can understand, generate, and even critically analyze vast amounts of information. Their applications in legal scenarios have widespread potential: from automating document reviews, drafting legal texts, assisting in legal research, to predicting legal outcomes. Prioritizing the education of these technologies, their potential limitations and their associated risks can ensure legal professionals are equipped to harness their potential, optimize efficiency, minimize risk and maintain competitiveness.

2. Leveraging Data

Leveraging data stands as a cornerstone in the evolution of legal technology and it is crucial for ILTA to prioritize it within their educational programming. Understanding the intricacies of data mapping is vital in visualizing the complex relationships and flow of data, particularly in legal scenarios where precise tracking of information can be critical. Concurrently, data governance ensures the management and utilization of data upholds the highest standards of integrity, security, and compliance. In the modern era, data lakes have emerged as centralized repositories to store structured and unstructured data, enabling organizations to seamlessly harness vast volumes of information. Tools like Tableau and Power BI revolutionized the way legal professionals visualize and interpret this data, making insights more actionable and fostering data-driven decision-making. Automation can play a pivotal role in streamlining redundant tasks and optimizing workflow efficiency. Further, business intelligence is becoming an invaluable tool in strategy formulation, performance assessment, and market positioning. Lastly, eDiscovery has advanced to use the data in their systems beyond information search and retrieval to providing critical strategic information. By educating legal professionals on these diverse but interconnected topics, ILTA empowers them to remain at the forefront of the industry, capitalizing on the myriad opportunities offered by today’s data-centric world.
Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365, with its comprehensive suite of tools and applications tailored for modern-day collaboration and productivity, is a core component and an area of dynamic change in nearly every legal organization. As the legal industry becomes increasingly digitized, proficiency in these platforms is paramount. Microsoft Teams, a central component of Microsoft 365, exemplifies the evolution of communication and collaboration in the legal sector. The addition of AI technologies and the dynamic licensing structure employed by Microsoft with these technologies adds considerable complexity. By including Microsoft 365 as a programming priority, ILTA ensures that future legal professionals are well-versed in the dominant tools of the trade, positioning them for success in a technology-driven legal landscape.

Cloud Adoption

Cloud adoption stands at the epicenter of current legal technological shifts and is critical for ILTA to include in their educational priorities. As the legal sector grapples with vast amounts of data and an ever-increasing need for flexibility, the cloud offers a solution that is scalable, efficient, and often more secure than traditional systems. A foundational understanding is critical; discerning what components of an organization’s infrastructure are suitable for migration to the cloud and what elements might best remain on-premises is a nuanced decision that impacts cost, performance, and accessibility. Cloud capabilities and maturity are also a key component in vendor selection as the myriad of providers offer differing features, costs, and assurances of their cloud-based solutions. Integration is yet another pivotal topic; ensuring that legacy systems both in the cloud and on premise and often deeply entrenched in legal workflows, can seamlessly interface with each other. And above all, security remains paramount. In an era of increasing cyber threats, understanding the unique security challenges and advantages of cloud systems is essential. Legal data is sensitive by nature, and ensuring its protection while leveraging the benefits of the cloud is a balance that future legal professionals must be equipped to strike. Prioritizing cloud adoption in educational programming ensures that legal professionals are prepared for the evolving landscape of their industry, maximizing efficiency while safeguarding critical information.

If you have any questions around the 2024 programming priorities or want to discuss these further, please contact Denise Ash at denise@iltanet.org, or Brian Balistreri at bbalistreri@iltanet.org.