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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

Abstract. The rapid advancement of digital technologies has ushered in an era of unprecedented transformation across various sectors, and the legal domain is no exception. This article delves into the intricate interplay between digital technologies and the field of law. It examines the multifaceted influence of digital technologies on legal processes, jurisprudence, and the administration of justice. Through an exploration of key areas such as electronic evidence, online dispute resolution, data privacy, and the emergence of blockchain technology, this article sheds light on the complex challenges and opportunities presented by the digital era within the legal realm.

Keywords: digital technologies, legal landscape, legal systems, legal principles, Blockchain technology, the principles of justice, the rule of law

ЦИФРОВЫЕ ТЕХНОЛОГИИ И ИХ ВЛИЯНИЕ НА ЮРИДИЧЕСКИЙ ЛАНДШАФТ

Аннотация. Стремительное развитие цифровых технологий положило начало эпохе беспрецедентных преобразований в различных отраслях, и юридическая сфера не является исключением. В данной статье рассматривается сложное взаимодействие цифровых технологий и сферы права. В ней исследуется многогранное влияние цифровых технологий на юридические процессы, судебную практику и отправление правосудия. Исследуя такие ключевые области, как электронные доказательства, разрешение споров в режиме онлайн, конфиденциальность данных и появление технологии блокчейн, статья проливает свет на сложные проблемы и возможности, которые открывает цифровая эра в правовой сфере.

Ключевые слова: цифровые технологии, правовой ландшафт, правовые системы, правовые принципы, технология блокчейн, принципы правосудия, верховенство права

The convergence of digital technologies with the legal landscape has ushered in a paradigm shift, altering the way legal professionals navigate, interpret and apply laws. This article embarks on an exploration of the profound impact that digital technologies have on various dimensions of law and how legal systems adapt to this evolving digital ecosystem.

One of the pivotal arenas where digital technologies intersect with law is electronic evidence. The digitization of information has revolutionized the presentation and analysis of evidence in legal proceedings. Digital forensics, encompassing techniques to extract, preserve, and analyze electronic data, has become an indispensable tool in investigations and litigation [5. Pp. 215–230]. The authenticity and admissibility of digital evidence pose new challenges that necessitate a thorough understanding of technological intricacies.

Electronic evidence demands a harmonious collaboration between legal practitioners and digital experts to ensure a seamless integration of technology in the judicial process.

The advent of digital technologies has catalyzed the development of Online Dispute Resolution mechanisms, providing an alternative platform for resolving conflicts in the virtual realm. ODR platforms leverage technology to facilitate mediation and arbitration, transcending geographical barriers and enhancing access to justice [2. Pp. 345–363]. However, the effectiveness of ODR raises questions about procedural fairness, enforcement of decisions, and the preservation of due process rights.

Online Dispute Resolution presents a promising avenue for enhancing dispute resolution accessibility, while also prompting a reevaluation of traditional legal principles in the digital context.

The proliferation of digital technologies has given rise to intricate challenges concerning data privacy and cybersecurity. Legal frameworks, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), strive to safeguard individuals' data in an increasingly interconnected world [4. Pp. 89–105]. Balancing the imperative to protect privacy with the utility of data-driven innovations calls for a delicate equilibrium between legal safeguards and technological advancements.

The intersection of data privacy laws and digital technologies necessitates a dynamic approach to address emerging privacy concerns in the digital age.

Blockchain technology, characterized by its decentralized and immutable nature, has disrupted traditional legal concepts through the advent of smart contracts. These self-executing contracts are encoded on blockchain networks, automating the enforcement of contractual obligations [1. Pp. 457–485]. While blockchain holds potential for enhancing transparency and reducing transaction costs, legal challenges such as jurisdictional issues and enforceability remain pivotal areas of exploration.

Blockchain technology introduces novel possibilities for contractual relationships, prompting legal scholars to navigate the uncharted waters of blockchain jurisprudence.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has permeated legal practice, empowering legal professionals with tools for legal research, document review, and predictive analytics. The integration of AI raises ethical dilemmas, including bias in algorithms and the implications of delegating decision-making to machines. The coexistence of human judgment and AI-generated insights shapes the future landscape of legal expertise [3. Pp. 311–313].

The symbiotic interaction between human legal practitioners and AI technologies underscores the need for ethical guidelines and a nuanced understanding of AI's role in legal proceedings.

As digital technologies continue to redefine legal parameters, regulatory challenges emerge as a critical facet. The evolution of digital technologies often outpaces the formulation of adequate legal frameworks [6. Pp. 495–506; 7]. This disjuncture necessitates a proactive approach to adapt existing laws and develop novel regulations that align with the dynamic digital landscape.

The coevolution of digital technologies and legal regulations requires an agile legal framework capable of fostering innovation while preserving fundamental rights.

The fusion of digital technologies with the legal domain ushers in an era of unparalleled transformation and complexity. As legal systems grapple with the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age, a comprehensive understanding of electronic evidence, online dispute resolution, data privacy, blockchain technology, AI, and regulatory dynamics becomes paramount. Navigating this intricate terrain requires legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to embark on a collective journey to harness the potential of digital technologies while upholding the principles of justice and the rule of law.

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