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Review of Lexbe Online

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LitigationWorld® TechnoScore | **A-**

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There's no better way to evaluate a document review application than with the Burney-LitigationWorld Discovery Dataset, which provides for an apples-to-apples comparison to competing products. In this issue of LitigationWorld, Brett Burney, the ediscovery consultant who created this dataset, reviews Lexbe Online. Brett walks you through Lexbe Online's interface, document import capabilities, search technology and document review tools, other features such as case analysis, and document production wizard. After this exhaustive analysis, Brett gives Lexbe Online a TechnoScore.

As one of the first cloud-based (software-as-a-service) document review platforms, Lexbe Online has long provided an alternative for law firms that want to avoid the tremendous expense involved with ediscovery software, especially on smaller cases with tighter budgets.

Lexbe Online takes a do-it-yourself approach to document review. Lexbe (the company) can help when you need it through its consulting arm, but the simple interface of Lexbe Online means most customers take the reins themselves. My review in this issue of *LitigationWorld* will discuss what this means in detail so you can judge whether Lexbe Online would fit your document review workflow.

A Familiar Face
Lexbe Online will look familiar to anyone who has worked in legacy document review platforms such as Concordance or Summation in which document collections are presented in a plain-vanilla, linear list. This is exactly what you see in Lexbe Online. I suspect this is why some litigators and paralegals prefer Lexbe Online over other platforms offering snazzier features and jazzier graphics.
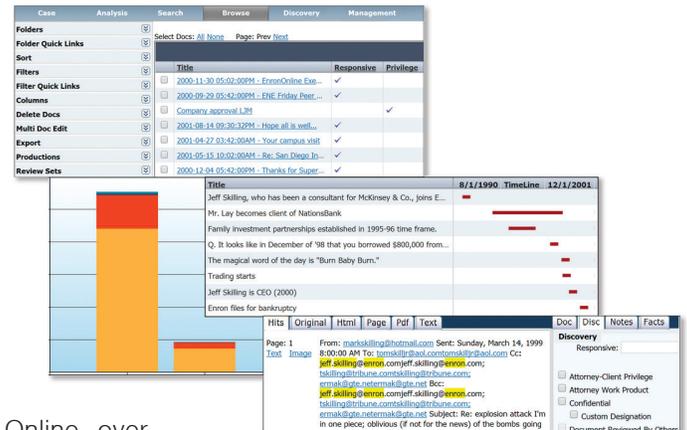
All Documents Welcome
Lexbe Online accepts all major file types. You can upload single documents but Lexbe would prefer that you "ZIP" multiple documents together in a single file before uploading. Lexbe Online also accepts PST files, typically exported from Microsoft Outlook. It automatically parses out the email messages and attachments.

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To upload documents, you'll need Microsoft's Silverlight plugin installed. This is available for both Mac and Windows but the upload of my *Burney-LitigationWorld Discovery Dataset* seemed to go smoother when I used Internet Explorer in Windows.

The Silverlight requirement means that Lexbe Online won't run on an iPad, Android tablet, or Chromebook. However, it runs on a Surface Pro and other Intel-based Windows 8 tablets.

Lexbe Online does a fine job of processing documents uploaded into the system and automatically generates PDFs of every document so that they can be viewed in that format if preferred. Lexbe Online also marks duplicate documents so that you choose to view them or not.

Find, View, and Tag Documents
Lexbe Online offers comprehensive search options, but I don't find the tools as intuitive as those on other platforms. Once you learn your way around the different options, you'll find them very powerful.

You can apply searches to the current case or across all cases. Clicking the Search tab brings up a box in which you can type keywords and Boolean strings. You can toggle advanced options for "Concept Search," "Fuzzy Search," and "Stemming Search" below the search box. Filtering options include metadata fields and folders. Once you find a search that works, you can save it and even share it with other reviewers.

When you click on a document, it typically opens in a new tab in your web browser which is a nice touch because I often refer back to my document list.

In the Document Viewer, Lexbe Online offers several options for viewing the document — Original, HTML, PDF, or Text. If it's a large PDF file, you can choose to view one page at a time (via the Page tab) so that it renders quicker.

On the right side of the Document Viewer are several tabs for adding or modifying information about the document. The Doc Tab lists the metadata associated with the document and even offers a "Split Doc / Remove Pages" option in case a large PDF needs to be split into multiple files.

The Discovery Tab enables you to tag documents as responsive and privileged. Case Administrators can set up custom fields and tags here. The Notes Tab is a handy area in which you can capture a thought or idea about the document (or a specific page in a document). Later, you access and search Notes from the Case Notes section.

Case Analysis
If you've ever had the pleasure of using CaseMap to organize the issues and facts involved with a litigation matter, you'll immediately understand the Case Analysis tools baked into Lexbe Online. I'm not aware of any other cloud document review tool that offers a similar feature.

The first step consists of creating a list of the issues and questions involved in the litigation matter. Next you can start recording events in the "Facts & Issues" table and linking them with specific issues for quick filtering later. The ultimate mind meld occurs when you're viewing a document and realize that it supports a specific issue or event. In such situations, you can link the two together. You can generate a report listing these connections.

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Sharing and Production
The "Download Briefcase" option enables you to group specific documents together for sharing with clients or colleagues.

Regarding opposing counsel, you can easily create production sets by searching for documents in the system tagged responsive. Lexbe Online offers a wizard to walk you through creating a Production Job and Bates stamping the documents. Production sets are exported as ZIP files and include popular load files (e.g.! DII and OPT). Privilege Logs are also easy to generate.

Transparent Pricing
One reason I have become such a big fan of cloud-based document review platforms is because they state their pricing right on their website. Lexbe Online starts at $22.50 per GB per month with no user fees and no long term contract. Lexbe offers discounts for Annual Plans.

TechnoScore
Lexbe Online is stable and straightforward — and the only cloud document review platform with case analysis tools. The Help file is also comprehensive and easy to follow.

For those with significant experience using Concordance or Summation, Lexbe Online might be the best choice for a smooth transition to a cloud platform. If you prefer some additional flair in your document review experience or want to review documents on your iPad look elsewhere.

While I like Lexbe Online a lot, I can't say it's always my first choice. Other platforms have surpassed Lexbe Online with more natural methods for filtering documents and integrated search. However, Lexbe Online has several major new features in the pipeline.

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Brett Burney is the principal of Burney Consultants where he focuses his time on bridging the chasm between the legal and technical frontiers of electronic discovery. Burney Consultants also provides exceptional support for litigation databases, document review projects, and trial technology. Brett blogs at ediscoveryinfo. Contact him for all your litigation needs.