

Mobile Technology & Innovation in the Law Firm

When LexisNexis first published local Hong Kong content in 1995, only 3.2% of people in Hong Kong had internet access. Now we live in one of the most connected cities in the world, with 2.28 mobile devices for every person in the city. The internet, and the devices that connect us to it, shape every aspect of our lives, fundamentally changing the ways we live, socialize and work.

The world of legal professionals is also rapidly evolving. The same connectivity, mobile devices and technologies that are changing the way we live are also changing the way lawyers work. Client and employee expectations are constantly evolving. The lines between home and the office are blurring.

LexisNexis speak with legal professionals and firms across the world on a daily basis. Mobility, connectivity and accessibility have dominated our conversations with our customers in recent years. A number of key issues have been highlighted across the Asia Pacific region as particularly pressing:

The generation shift

The partners of tomorrow are the millennials of today. These digital natives have grown up plugged in and switched on, accessing knowledge and social networks through their personal devices. They expect to be able to use their own devices at work, and to access effective technologies. As the first 'gen Y' lawyers start making partner we are seeing an increasing push for the integration of mobile technologies into the working lives of lawyers. We recently hosted roundtable discussions with Hong Kong's leading managing partners, who thought these issues were an area of great change and development.

Mobility & connectivity

Clients expect to contact firms 24/7, wherever and whenever their lawyer might be—and they expect immediate and up-to-date answers. Legal staff need access to the knowledge and resources to quickly and effectively answer clients' questions, whether in the office, at home or on the move. Having access to the latest legal information and resources is critical to client satisfaction and retention.

The shrinking office

Hong Kong has the most expensive office rental costs in the world, so space is a costly luxury. The era of individual offices and large firm libraries is over. As firms increasingly move to open plan, hot-desking environments and physical library space decreases, new ways to store and access vital reference materials are needed.

Content powered by mobility

LexisNexis looseleaf services are cited in courts across the world, and are relied upon by thousands of lawyers every day looking for authoritative legal research.

The looseleaf format was an innovation when it was first created at the start of the 20th century, offering a quick means of updating publications in line with legislation, without needing to reprint the entire work. This need for up-to-date content in a creative and convenient format still remains. Combine this with the trend for mobile devices, a need to have content accessible at all times and a shrinking library space, and a new platform for looseleaf content emerges.

Lawyers don't read, they reference

While traditional e-reader platforms are perfect for reading novels and magazines, they do not always work for lawyers, who access and use content in unique ways.

The average person reads in a passive, linear fashion from the first chapter to the last, normally only bookmarking when taking a break. Lawyers, on the other hand, don't read as much as they reference. Lawyers access content in a non-linear way rather than cover-to-cover, needing to find a particular piece of content quickly and often under pressure.

With this strong focus on referencing, legal professionals like to make notes, bookmark and highlight text to aid memory retention, tag in relationship to a particular matter or use as their own interpretation tool. This not only enhances the content but also makes it easier to find later. They are essentially creating their own version of the content by personalizing it.

Mainstream e-books allow you to carry your entire library with you wherever you go, and access it at a swipe. Lawyers can do the same thing for their professional publications.

Introducing Lexis® Red

Lexis Red is an award-winning personal reference tool which allows access to the latest looseleaf content from LexisNexis. Developed in close consultation with practitioners from across the profession, Lexis Red allows you to carry and reference your LexisNexis digital content on and offline, with automatic updating of new content, advanced referencing, and highlighting and note taking functionalities. It is compatible with Apple, Windows and Android devices.

Real life application, real benefits for lawyers

"It's a significant saving for a government legal department. It gives the prosecutors immediate access to critical resources that are up to date and is an efficient and sustainable solution," said inspector Brendan Searson, New South Wales Police, Australia.

Lexis Red is used by over 280 NSW Police prosecutors, who were one of the first early adopters of the product. As well as saving time and money switching to Lexis Red meant the police prosecutors swapped 7kg of publications in court for just 700g of iPad, saving their backs too!

Now, this innovative technology is coming to Hong Kong. From July 2016, you will be able to purchase LexisNexis Hong Kong looseleaf titles on Lexis Red. Existing and new customers will all benefit from the platform, which offers significant space, time and efficiency savings.

"We are very excited to launch Lexis Red in Hong Kong, following its success in Australia and New Zealand. It's a digital solution that we believe will be of real benefit to legal practitioners in Hong Kong," Tyson Wienker, managing director, LexisNexis Greater China said.



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