

# THE CRIV SHEET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS  
WITH INFORMATION VENDORS

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YOUR LEGAL



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# EDITOR'S CORNER

ANDREW CHRISTENSEN



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 to creating this and every issue of the CRIV Sheet. The authors, Committee  
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 it all together into an attractive package. And thanks to you for reading! If you  
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[know](#) —we have plenty of room for features and conversations in our future  
 issues and welcome your contributions.

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# MEET SCALES-OKN: THE NEW OPEN PLATFORM FOR FEDERAL COURT INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

ANDREW CHRISTENSEN  
HEAD OF DIGITAL INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH  
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW


## Contributors

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- Charlotte Alexander (Connie & Ken McDaniel WomenLead Chair & Associate Professor of Law & Analytics, College of Law, Georgia State University)
- Christopher Cotropia ( Dennis I. Belcher Professor of Law & Director, Intellectual Property Institute, School of Law, University of Richmond)
- Tom Gaylord (Faculty Services and Scholarly Communications Librarian, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University)
- Adam Pah (Clinical Assistant Professor of Management & Organizations, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University)
- David Schwartz (Frederic P. Vose Professor of Law & Associate Dean of Research and Intellectual Life, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University)

In early September, I received an unexpected request \W XIZ\QKQXI\M QV 1=[MZ <M[\QVO NWZ 6WV 8ZWÅ\ ,WKSM\ Search Software.” The brief email was from law professor Chris Cotropia at the University of Richmond, and mentioned that Roger Skalbeck, director of their law library and a former colleague of mine at Georgetown, had suggested me—in my capacity as a law librarian—as a good test-user of a new platform called SCALES-OKN.

I was unfamiliar with the name, but a visit to the [SCALES-OKN website](#) (and their [YouTube video](#) ) quickly informed me of their worthy and ambitious cause, and the value that the project promises to bring \W TMOIT QVNWZUI\QWV [MMSMZ[ NZWU XZWNM[[QWVIT ÅMTL[ IVL the public at large.

I agreed to try it out, and the next day spent nearly an hour on Zoom with Dr. Rachel Adler of the C3 Lab at Northwestern University kicking the proverbial tires of the SCALES-OKN platform, running searches of court records through various interface versis67004C0Fng (en-US9ET E /P <</Lang .3 (r)-.3 e1.6 (s t)-25 (i)7 (c)-12.5 (k)-41.7 (l)-4.1 (y i)-6>-2019 :



tially contribute to its development, and promote it as a valuable resource to our communities.

To that end, I reached out to several members of the SCALES-OKN team to get an overview of the project—its history, aims, achievements, and future—to share with readers of *The CRIV Sheet*. Representing a diverse set of specialties and skills, six scholar-developers of SCALES-OKN kindly agreed to present their perspectives through answering a brief set of questions I prepared. I hope you enjoy their insights, and that their passion and vision for this unique project inspire you to check out SCALES-OKN and keep it on your radar.

1. Please describe your role in the conception, development, and operation of the SCALES-OKN project.

Chris Cotropia : I joined the project after its initial conception. I think I was brought on due to my empirical legal scholarship focus and previous work with federal litigation dockets, including my study of patent litigation. I am part of the community support and engagement team at SCALES-OKN, looking at the needs of various communities to access and analyze federal litigation, including the ways SCALES-OKN can be developed to meet those needs. I am also part of the data acquisition and ontology working groups.

Charlotte Alexander : I also joined the SCALES team after the project was already underway. I had done previous work using text analytics to identify important litigation events from the unstructured text of federal







- Sergio Servantez – PhD candidate in CS at NU





array of possible situations in each case (e.g., changes of venue, additional complexities introduced by the processes associated with criminal cases, and so on).

LUCKY/C3 Lab: We plan to have a semi-open beta release for our lab of computer scientists and AI researchers around the end of the year for the SCALES-OKN in which we work with a data engineering team focused on many aspects of ETL and tagging, and the broader SCALES team includes a host of legal scholars, lawyers, and other domain experts who we collaborate with to fully understand and model the space.

On the second part—the Satyrn platform—our pursuit of automating data science in a cross-dataset and cross-domain way introduces a host of meaningful challenges, from how best to help a non-technical user through the process of data search and analysis to how to provide them with results that are understandable while also surfacing potential issues with the underlying data. Further, the Satyrn model opens the door to the possibility of non-technical users bringing new datasets to the platform for blending with other novel forms of analysis, and one near-term tract of work is set to focus on many of the building blocks in place and user testing to date has validated our core approach, so we are excited about continuing down this path.

LUCKY/C3 Lab: We plan to have a semi-open beta release around the end of the year for the SCALES-OKN in which we work with a data engineering team focused on many aspects of ETL and tagging, and the broader SCALES team includes a host of legal scholars, lawyers, and other domain experts who we collaborate with to fully understand and model the space.

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CC: We love to hear from (and work with) those who have questions that need access to federal litigation

4. What is the timeline for completion and full deployment of the SCALES-OKN products and/or services?

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Convergence Accelerator grant. After these 12 months, SCALES-OKN has moved from alpha to beta release, with major improvements in the user interface, PACER docket information parsing and processing, downstream analytics, and core ontology.

Going forward over the next year, we plan to crosswalk our data with other datasets, such as USSC sentencing data and the Federal Judicial Center’s Integrated Database. We are also focused on further improving our litigation events and phases modeling

Our goal is to keep pushing and enriching the SCALES-OKN user interface and data ecosystem throughout the year and, with continued user testing, reach our milestones for a stable and feature-filled public release in summer 2022. As the






# BEYOND CRIV: MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS, ISSUES & TRENDS IN LEGAL INFORMATION

ASHLEY AMES AHLBRAND  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICES  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW

Just as law and technology change on a dime, so too, it seems, does the legal information landscape. Whether we are assisting faculty and students, judges and law clerks, or paralegals and attorneys with legal research; whether we use the legal resources ourselves or provide and instruct others on how to use them; whether the resources we use are in print, electronic, audio, or visual; legal information bombards us at every turn—an ever-present factor in our day-to-day work as legal information professionals.


Through our own publications, the [CRIV Blog](#) and [The CRIV Sheet](#), the members of the Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV) endeavor to keep our readership informed on the latest devel

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- [Online Discussion Forums](#) – This page helpfully compiles a list of FCIL-related listservs beyond AALL. Some are member-exclusive, but many are open to all. Listserv focus ranges from country



- [Dewey B Strategic](#) . <PW]OP VW\ IV W{KQIT





push that further this year by helping to spread the information and information vendors that you would like word about your CRIV-related resources and programs to highlight, or if you have a committee or member ming. If your SIS, caucus, or chapter has an upcoming who would like to write for us, please reach out. We look event or new publication or resource related to legal information forward to learning and growing alongside you.

## CRIV SHEET SUMMARIES / 2021 AALL ANNUAL MEETING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The 114th Annual Meeting & Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries was held virtually July 19-23, 2021. The theme was “Leading with Wisdom & Insight.” In volume 43 no. 1 of [The CRIV Sheet \(June 2021\)](#), CRIV was happy to recommend several programs for this Conference. In this issue, we follow up with program reviews of seven of those recommended programs as part of our CRIV Sheet Summaries. All the reviews are available in [Volume 44 No. 1 \(November 2021\)](#).



tools for data analysis and visualization, including )V QUXWZ\IV\ KWVKTLQVO VW\M IJW]\ 7XMV:MÅVM : IVL : ;\LQW 2]Xa MLZX BW MLZQWWSX Z WaOZIU Q[ \W LZI\_ I\MV \PWV 8W\_MZ \*1 IVL <IJTMI] 1\ QM a73 VLW\ K W TS V)WU[ FXWQV\ [ W]\ QV PQ[ IVa WN \PW[M \PQVO[ IZM I[ PM XZQVQZ IU JZPQWNPQMT MK Z QXWQ VQ\ WXW\_MZN each, and points out that several are programming lan\ WWT Q\ PI[ TQUQ\ [ \_PMV Q\ KWUM[ \W O]IOM[ IVL \WWT[ ] [ML PMI^QTa &P MKW\ P MLZ\ \V\WOTM VPO\ \P M LM[KZQJM[ IT 0W\_M^MZ NWZ TQJZIZQIV[ \_PW LZM QW\ \M\ZPM\ M\K Q V MI\X IIKKQWUCU WLI\M \I \PMQZ [SQTT [M\ [ QV\W KWLQVOKW UXL T à \P W Q [ \ZM I MK KM Z Q JTIM U]KP MI[C IVL TMIZVIJTM IVL \PM[M \WWT[] KMV IXIla \WQW Q L M Q S[MN8 W JIMZ \*1 IVL <IJTM aWVL R][\ LI\I UIVQX]TI\QWV -^MUZaZ MQ\ V O ZT Q Z Q MLVIJTB^ M Q [XW\_MZN]T LI\ NZMM IVL WXMV [W]ZKM M`KM X\XNW\ ZQ8 V I Q ZQ\*M[ I 5QKZW[WN\ XZWL]K\ IVL <IJTMI] ZMKMV\Ta IKIY] Q JMLU ZIa ;QTMq M\W Z KW WZ VMML \W L <PM M`MZKQ[M[ XZW^QLML \W O W V I T W [ Q Q X Q W P R M P M [ L I W M X W Q % M S V W \_ \_ P M X Z W O Z I U [ P W \_ a W ] P W \_ \ W ] [ M I X Z W O Z I U Z Q I T Y M Z I [ Q W W W W Q V \ Z W L ] K \ Q W V < I J T M I ] Q N a W ] Z W Z O I V Q b I \ Q W V < M W R Y Q K M T I ; T Z I N Q & M P I [ M W P T Q [ V W \ Q N a \ P [ W N \ \_ I Z M

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[Cherokee Nation and Chickasaw Nation Criminal Jurisdiction Compact Act](#)

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RESEARCH, INSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITIONS LIBRARIAN  
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- Reuters News

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Wolters Kluwers Programs, Activities, or Business of Interest to CRIV and/or AALL

Jenna Ellis provided several updates on items of interest.

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