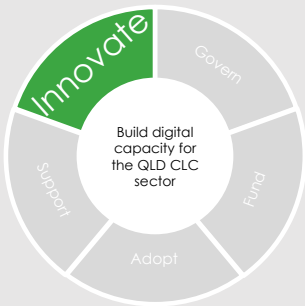# LegalTech: Useful sources for sector trends and insights

'Building Digital Capacity' resources series

Resource type:	Strategic area:	Use it to:
List of resources		• Learn about LegalTech and its relevance to the CLC sector • Find resources related to technology innovation for the legal sector

Current as of February 2020

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> Other relevant resources in our **Building Digital Capacity resources series**:
>
> - *Working out your CLC innovation profile.*

1 – WHAT IS LEGALTECH

'*Legal technology, also known as LegalTech, refers to the use of technology and software to provide legal services. LegalTech companies are generally start-ups founded with the purpose of disrupting the traditionally conservative legal market.*' (*Source: Wikipedia*).

▸ Although the legal profession has been relatively slow (compared to the financial or insurance services sectors for example) to embrace technology, law practitioners recognise technology is on the cusp of fundamentally altering the way people access justice, and the way legal services are provided. LegalTech is now a major area of growth with a proliferation of legal technology providers, start-ups and solutions, both in Australia and globally.

▸ LegalTech practitioners bring a unique combination of skills and expertise in law, legal practices, technology and innovation.

▸ Whilst access to technology is unprecedented, the offering is vast, with a myriad of software, apps and systems purpose-built to support law practices and their business processes. Whilst the breadth of choice and the constant release of new products makes it a challenge to pick the right solution, the technology offering presents major opportunities for the CLC sector.

▸ Key technology trends for the wider legal sector include moving to the cloud, mobility, virtual law firms, machine learning, robot lawyers, social media, cybersecurity, CRM, performance measurement, online services (including self-service portals) and electronic disclosure. However, no trend dominates as a single means of sector disruption (*Source: forbes.com*).

▸ Artificial intelligence and automation are set to drastically alter jobs in the legal sector, with McKinsey estimating that 22% of a lawyer's job and 35% of a paralegal's job can be automated. (*Source: Lawyer Monthly*)

▸ The legal sector as a whole now recognises the imperative to make greater use of technology to respond to changing consumer and client demands, expectations and behaviours. This is reflected in the sector acknowledging the need to not only adopt digital solutions, but also to prepare and train legal practitioners and law students in information technology skills.

▸ There are opportunities for CLC's to engage with stakeholders outside the sector on digital matters, including other legal service providers, education and research centres, and other groups or organisations with a focus on legal innovation and technology.

In 2017, the total known investment in Legal Tech was USD 233M. In 2018, it was in excess of USD 1B. In 2019, the investment tally was set to be a record year. '*At this point, there is no turning back.*' (*Source: abovethelaw.com*).

Technology is enabling novel ways of accessing justice, including crowdfunding platforms that can be used by anyone to fund legal action (e.g. crowdjustice.com).

2 – RESOURCES

There are many resources on legal technology innovation and the list below is a small sample of sites and online resources you might want to check out. You can follow them on social media and/or subscribe to their news for their latest articles and content.

Resource	Key notes
Australian Legal Technology Association (ALTA) (alta.law)	• Connects Australian legal sector representatives and LegalTech practitioners/firms. • Offers conferences ('ALTACON') and sandbox sessions (where you can try out products). • 'Advocates' membership to be made available to CLCs for $20 per annum per nominated CLC representative.
Centre for Legal Innovation (CLI) at The College of Law (cli.collaw.com)	• Articles and resources on legal innovation and technology, including 'Legal Techy Tuesday Series' (product demos). • CLI has a special interest groups, one of which is the LegalTech and A2J (access to justice) and runs roundtables on the topic.
Andrea Perry-Petersen's podcast (andreaperrypetersen.com.au)	• Discussions latest trends on innovation in the legal sector and access to justice.
Monash University's LawTech resources (guides.lib.monash.edu/lawtech)	• Articles, reports, case studies and practical applications of technology to the law.
Law, Technology & Access to Justice website (law-tech-a2j.org)	• Content specifically focused on technology and access to justice. • Funded by UK-based Legal Education Foundation.
Global Legal Tech Report (globallegaltechreport.com)	• Sign-up to receive the first global legal tech report when it launches.