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**MIDDLE TEMPLE**

# AI and the legal information sector

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# What we will cover

- What AI means (broadly in the UK and specifically in the legal sector)
- Innovation (what it is and what it means) and opportunities for legal LIS professionals
- Generative AIs
- Legislative approaches to AI
- Ethical approaches to AI

# Definition

# What's in a name?

- **1955**: Coined by John McCarthy in his proposal for the 1956 Dartmouth Conference – the first conference to address AI.
- the term AI muddies our understanding of the technology which it encompasses, and distorts pragmatic thinking, thus alienating the wider public from it
- UK government 2021: National AI Strategy
- European Parliament 2023: aligned it's definition of AI to that of the OECD's

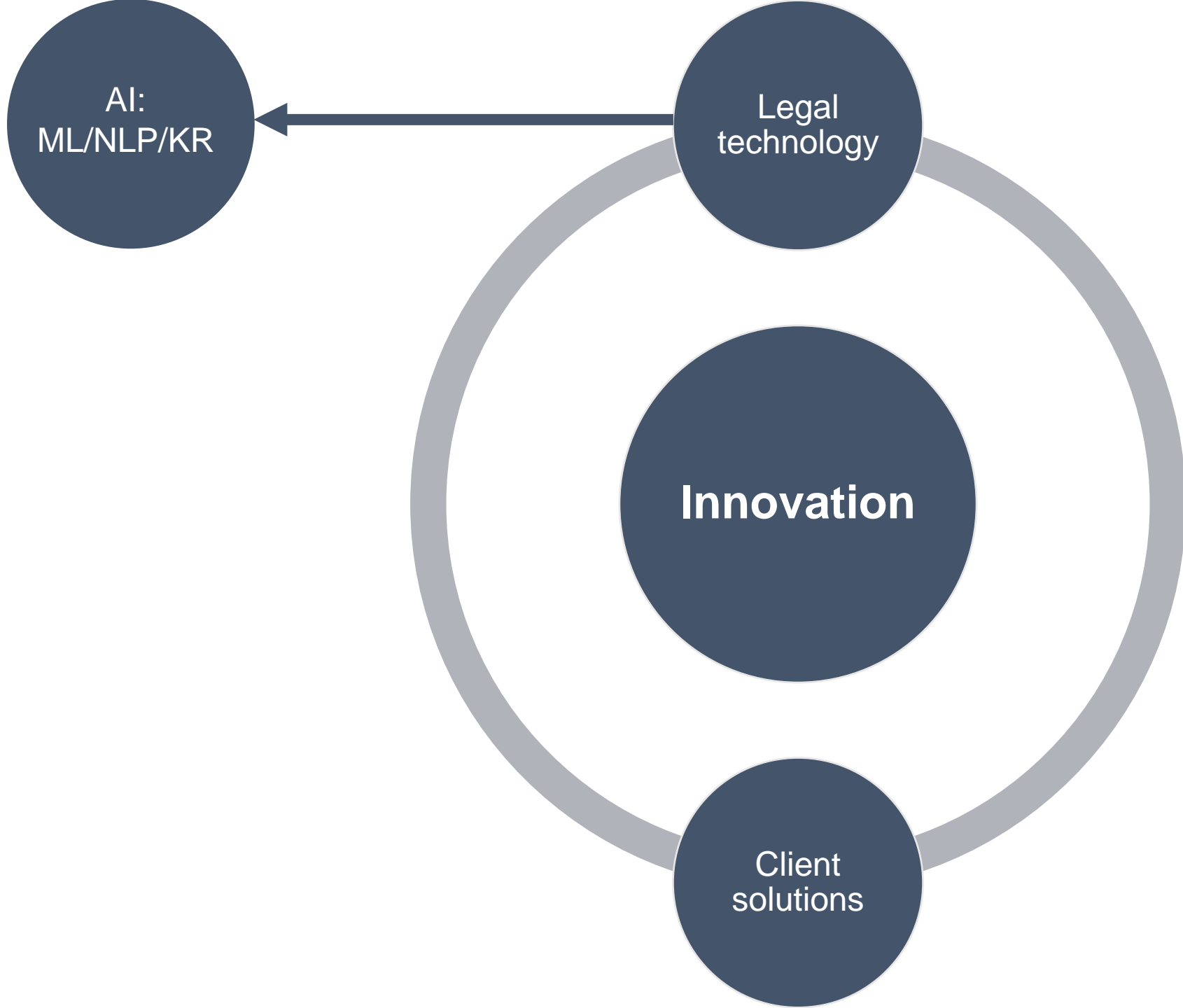
# AI in the 2020s

- **Machine Learning (ML)** – where technology, underpinned by algorithms, detects patterns in data, and applies these new patterns to automate certain tasks.
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** – the branch of AI concerned with giving computers the ability to understand text and spoken words in much the same way human beings can.
- **Knowledge Reasoning (KR)** - the ability to infer facts from existing data

# Legal Artificial Intelligence

- **Document analysis** (to streamline the transaction processed in various sectors such as mergers and acquisitions and transfers of estates)
- **Contract intelligence** (to enable a whole suite of documents to be scanned into an AI system to spot areas of high and low risk, aid the wording process, and, more recently, ensure GDPR compliance)
- **Clinical negligence analysis** (examines the outcome of previous cases to predict the outcome of a claim)
- **Case outcome prediction** (which tends to be the preserve of legal practice in the United States)

Innovation & opportunities



AI:  
ML/NLP/KR

Legal  
technology

**Innovation**

Client  
solutions



# Skills information professionals possess

‘Law librarians, as information professionals with a unique understanding of users’ search habits, goals, and available data, can help the institution tailor the application and maximize the benefits on the AI system’

‘The time is ripe for law librarians to incorporate background knowledge of both database algorithms and AI corpus contents into the legal research curriculum in both academic and firm instructional settings’

(Chen & Neary, 2019)

# NLP in legal databases

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Find out more about the nature and effect of the Northern Ireland Protocol by reading our [Overview Article](#), authored by Daniel Greenberg.

What is the definition of project manager?

All content

No items selected  Natural language

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**Project managers**  
Definition

**Definition**

1. There is no statutory **definition** of "**project manager**". Case law provides several different **definitions**, with a common theme.

# Contract intelligence / analysis

- ML-based Contract intelligence



# Anxiety or apathy among LIS professionals?

- ‘Law firms libraries selected, on average, over five issues being faced in the current financial year’ – one of these issues was the ‘use of Artificial Intelligence’ raised by 15% of respondents.

(BIALL, 2023)

‘One important implication for all information professionals is that a basic form of literacy that they need is understanding of AI and robots: they need AI and robotics literacy. Algorithmic literacy could be seen as a subset of this [...] AI, robotics and data literacy is something that libraries can play a role in promoting.’

(Cox, 2021)

# Future potential for LIS professionals

- Legal information professionals as educators / teachers in the training of AI technology and datasets
- Legal information professionals' roles adapting to encompass new skills, such as account management, data architecture, database management, coding, etc.
- Changes to UK library school / iSchool curricular to equip graduate students with new skills in coding, ethics, the law, and understanding data sets
- Changes within professional bodies such as CILIP and BIALL to enable their members to upskill and keep up-to-date with technological changes

# US information professionals

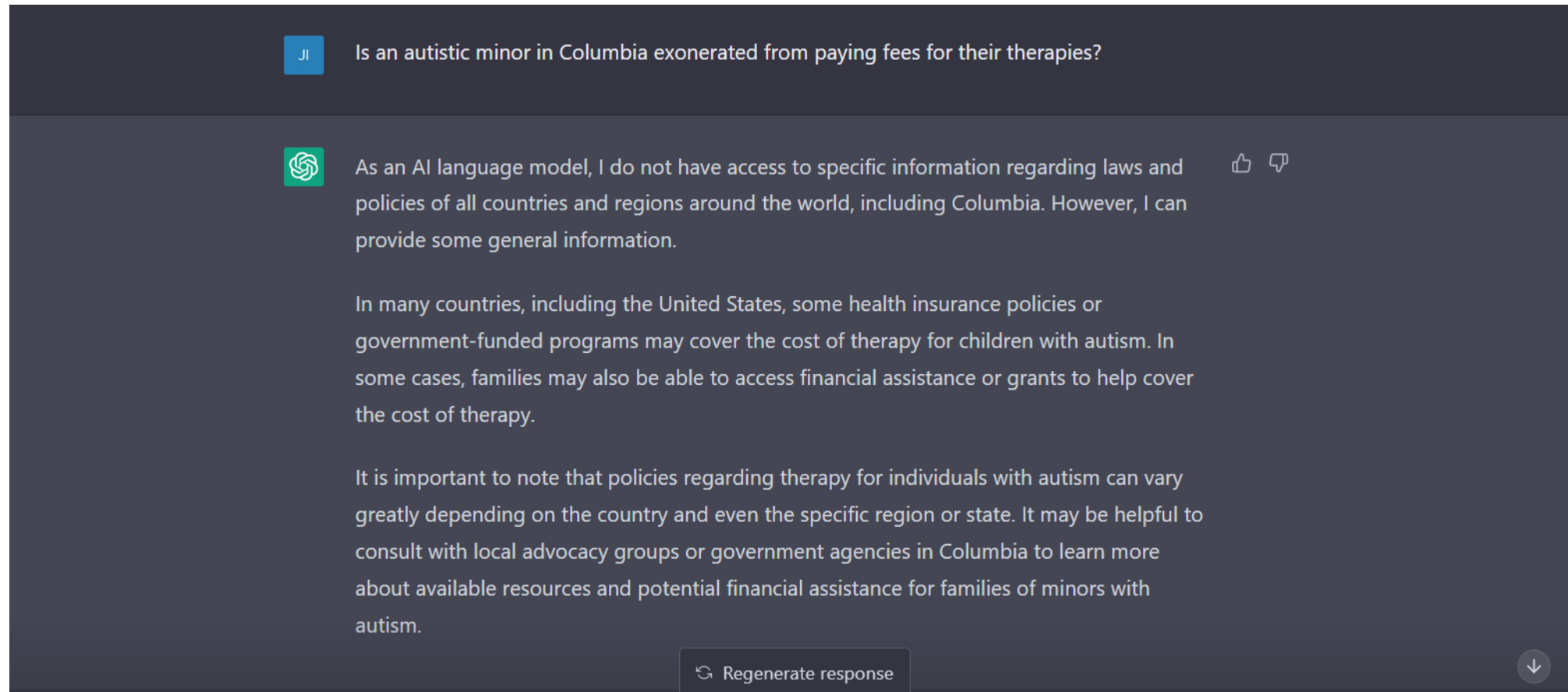
- The latest [State of the Profession Report](#), published in June 2021, surveyed 229 US-based corporate legal department and law firm librarians
- 28% of law firm and in-house law librarians are planning or creating one or more AI/ML initiatives
- 52% said they didn't have an AI/ML initiative and had no plans to start one
- 11% said AI/ML impacted their library's workflow
- 43% plan to acquire or further develop their AI/ML skills in the next two years

# Generative AIs - ChatGPT

- OpenAI development released in November 2022
- ChatGPT: *“interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests.”*
- Limitation acknowledged by OpenAI: *“ChatGPT sometimes writes plausible-sounding but incorrect or nonsensical answers.”*
- But what sources does it use and are they reliable?

# South American case – 2023

- A case was heard in a Columbian court in which Judge Juan Manuel Padilla used ChatGPT to reach a conclusion about therapy fees for a child with autism. *“Is an autistic minor exonerated from paying fees for their therapies?”*



The screenshot shows a chat interface with a dark background. At the top, a user question is displayed in a blue box: "Is an autistic minor in Columbia exonerated from paying fees for their therapies?". Below this, the AI response is shown in a white box. The response begins with a disclaimer: "As an AI language model, I do not have access to specific information regarding laws and policies of all countries and regions around the world, including Columbia. However, I can provide some general information." It then provides general information in two paragraphs. The first paragraph states: "In many countries, including the United States, some health insurance policies or government-funded programs may cover the cost of therapy for children with autism. In some cases, families may also be able to access financial assistance or grants to help cover the cost of therapy." The second paragraph states: "It is important to note that policies regarding therapy for individuals with autism can vary greatly depending on the country and even the specific region or state. It may be helpful to consult with local advocacy groups or government agencies in Columbia to learn more about available resources and potential financial assistance for families of minors with autism." At the bottom of the chat, there is a "Regenerate response" button and a downward arrow icon.

Jl Is an autistic minor in Columbia exonerated from paying fees for their therapies?

As an AI language model, I do not have access to specific information regarding laws and policies of all countries and regions around the world, including Columbia. However, I can provide some general information.

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Regenerate response



# Regulation and ethics

# Regulation

- June 2018: The Select Committee on AI's publication [AI in the UK: ready, willing and able?](#) (policy paper)
- April 2019: The European Union's publication [Ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI](#) (guidance)
- February 2020: The European Union's publication [Artificial Intelligence – a European approach to excellence and trust](#) (White paper)
- April 2021: EU: [Proposal for a Regulation laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence \(Artificial Intelligence Act\)](#) (legislation proposal)
- September 2021: UK Government's [National AI Strategy](#) (guidance)
- October 2022: US government [AI Bill of Rights](#) (legislation proposal)
- April 2023: UK government's publication: [A pro-innovation approach to AI regulation](#) (White Paper)

# Considerations when using AI

- The ethical use of AI
  - Human involvement
  - Privacy
  - Biases
  - Liability
  - Fairness
- 
- Proposal for an [EU AI Act \(AIA\)](#)
  - UK policy paper: [Establishing a pro-innovation approach to regulating AI](#)

Thank you