
EDITORIAL

I originally started the *e-Signature Law Journal* [ISSN 1744-0882] to keep up to date with electronic signatures across the world in 2004 after the first edition of my book *Electronic Signatures in Law* was published in 2003 by LexisNexis Butterworths. The second edition, published by Tottel in 2007 benefited immensely from the content of the *e-Signature Law Journal* and the *Digital Evidence Journal*.

I renamed the journal in 2006 to the *Digital Evidence Journal* [ISSN 1750-7200] when I was part-way through the first edition of *Electronic Evidence: Disclosure, Discovery & Admissibility*, as author and general editor (LexisNexis Butterworths, 2007) which covered the main common law countries. It then seemed appropriate to bring the two topics together explicitly, certainly when his next book that I edited was published in March 2008: *International Electronic Evidence* (British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 2008) covering a further 35 countries.

The first four volumes of the journal were printed using standard printing technology. From 2008, 'on demand' printing permitted more cost-effective printing of A4 journals, so the renamed *Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review* [ISSN 1756-4611] became an A4 journal using the on-demand printing process. Subsequently, in addition to print publication, arrangements with EBSCOhost, HeinOnline and vLex made the journal available electronically to subscribers of those services.

In 2014, the *Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review* [ISSN 2054-8508 (online)] has become an Open Access journal published by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on the School of Advanced Study Open Journals System. The full back run of volumes is publicly available on the service, and Volume 11: 2014 onwards are 'born digital' Open Access publications.

I was very pleased when Dr Allison Stanfield agreed to become the joint editor of the journal in 2017. Allison was awarded her PhD, entitled 'The Authentication of Electronic Evidence', in 2015 by the Law School, Queensland University of Technology, Australia and joined me on the chapter of 'Authentication' in the fourth edition of *Electronic Evidence*, and continued with the chapter for the fifth edition.

It has been a pleasure to work with Allison, and fun to jointly deliver a lecture 'Emerging technologies: authenticating new forms of evidence' at Queensland University of Technology, in Brisbane on 9 August 2012.

I also thank those at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies who have ensured the journal is prepared and uploaded each year:

Steve Whittle, IALS Information Systems Manager

Narayana Harave, Manager IALS Digital

Sandy Dutczak, Digital Projects and Publications Manager, IALS Digital

Steve has retired and Sandy moved on to a law firm, we remain fortunate that Narayana remains the mainstay, and that him for his hard work in making sure the journal is uploaded.

Dr Jessica Shurson has agreed to join Allison as deputy editor at the end of 2023. I thank her for agreeing to join Allison, and hope Allison and Jessica will enjoy meeting (mostly virtually) all the authors and peer reviewers that I have had the good fortune to communicate with over the past 20 years.

Not only do I thank the authors for submitting articles and peer reviewers for reviewing them, but also all the members of the editorial board – past and present – that have agreed, over the years, to take part in the journal.

I sincerely hope that Allison, Jessica and the IALS will be able to improve the journal over time, and to develop it as time progresses.

I started the journal with the aim of covering areas of law that I knew mainstream publications would not cover – and still, to a certain extent, do not cover. That it is now open source is, I hope, of help to judges, lawyers and legal academics the world over.

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Submissions

The Review seeks and encourages original submissions from judges, lawyers, academics, scientists and technicians; students in relation to postgraduate degree work and versions of dissertations, where the student has passed the relevant course and the dissertation has been marked. The IT industry, certification authorities, registration authorities and suppliers of software and hardware are also encouraged to engage in the debate by submitting articles and items of news.

The length of an article can vary. There is no fixed length. The aim is to publish articles of good quality that adds to the debate and knowledge of readers, discuss recent developments and offer practical advice. All articles will be in English, and contributors are requested to write using shorter, rather than longer sentences, because the audience is international.

Submissions should be sent as an attachment to an e-mail addressed to Dr Allison Stanfield and Dr Jessica Shurson by e-mail to: a.stanfield@lanternlegal.com.au and J.Shurson@sussex.ac.uk or through the online submission options on the journal's homepage at: <http://journals.sas.ac.uk/deeslr/>.

All papers are peer reviewed blind.

See our **Guide for Authors – submission and editorial information** at: <http://ials.sas.ac.uk/digital/ials-open-access-journals/digital-evidence-and-electronic-signature-law-review/digital-1>

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The contact details of the author should be included in the submission (name, qualifications, name of firm, company or university, full postal address, web address), plus a brief biography demonstrating expertise and experience of up to but no more than 50 words in length.

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