



NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

Estimating the Amount of Paper in Court Files and an Overview of Data in the North Carolina State Courts

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LAW AND JUSTICE

Establishing a Baseline Measure of Court Files

- As part of discussion of paper on demand court system, baseline needed of current paper files
- Estimate of amount of paper in case files developed by reviewing samples of case files in:
 - Buncombe, Guilford, and New Hanover from the 14 counties that comprise 50% of state population
 - Halifax, Wayne, and Yancey from the 86 counties that comprise remaining 50% of state population



How Often a Piece of Paper is Added to a Case File in a Clerk's Office

Assuming an 8.5 hour business day:

- a) One every three seconds
- b) One every two seconds
- c) One every second

Answer: 4 Every Second

Average Pages in Case File Calculated from Sample of Cases for Major Case File Types

Case Type	Pages	Images
Civil Superior	71.6	76.4
Criminal Superior	24.1	34.4
Estates	30.6	32.2
Special Proceedings	45.3	46.9
Civil District	23.4	26.9
Small Claims	6.5	8.8
District Criminal Motor Vehicle	4.7	6.8
District Criminal Impaired Driving	19.7	27.6
District Criminal Non-Motor Vehicle	8.6	13.1
District Infractions	2.8	3.0
Juvenile Abuse/Neglect/Dependency	113.0	127.3
Juvenile Delinquency/Undisciplined	40.4	58.4
Juvenile Termination of Parental Rights + Emp	52.3	63.6



Estimated Total Pages in Case Files

Fiscal Year	Pages	Images
Fiscal Year 2012-13	31,369,840	39,543,033
Fiscal Year 2013-14	30,967,254	38,970,052
Fiscal Year 2014-15	30,644,270	38,433,889

Estimated Total Linear Feet of Files Per Year

Fiscal Year	Linear Feet	Linear Miles
Fiscal Year 2012-13	22,960	4.3
Fiscal Year 2013-14	22,733	4.3
Fiscal Year 2014-15	22,482	4.3

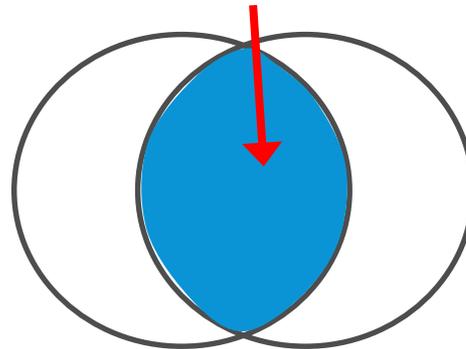
Looking Back v. Looking Forward

- Storage capacity – paper to electronic
- Case types that are primarily forms driven – candidates for case information in database
 - Small Claims
 - Infractions
- Case types whose files are not primarily forms – significant case information retained in paper or images
 - Civil Superior
 - Estates
 - 30 years of estates files – estimated 52,323,354 pages with 55,074,523
 - Current records retention rule – retain paper file 60 years, then to State Archives

What Should Be Measured?

CourTools

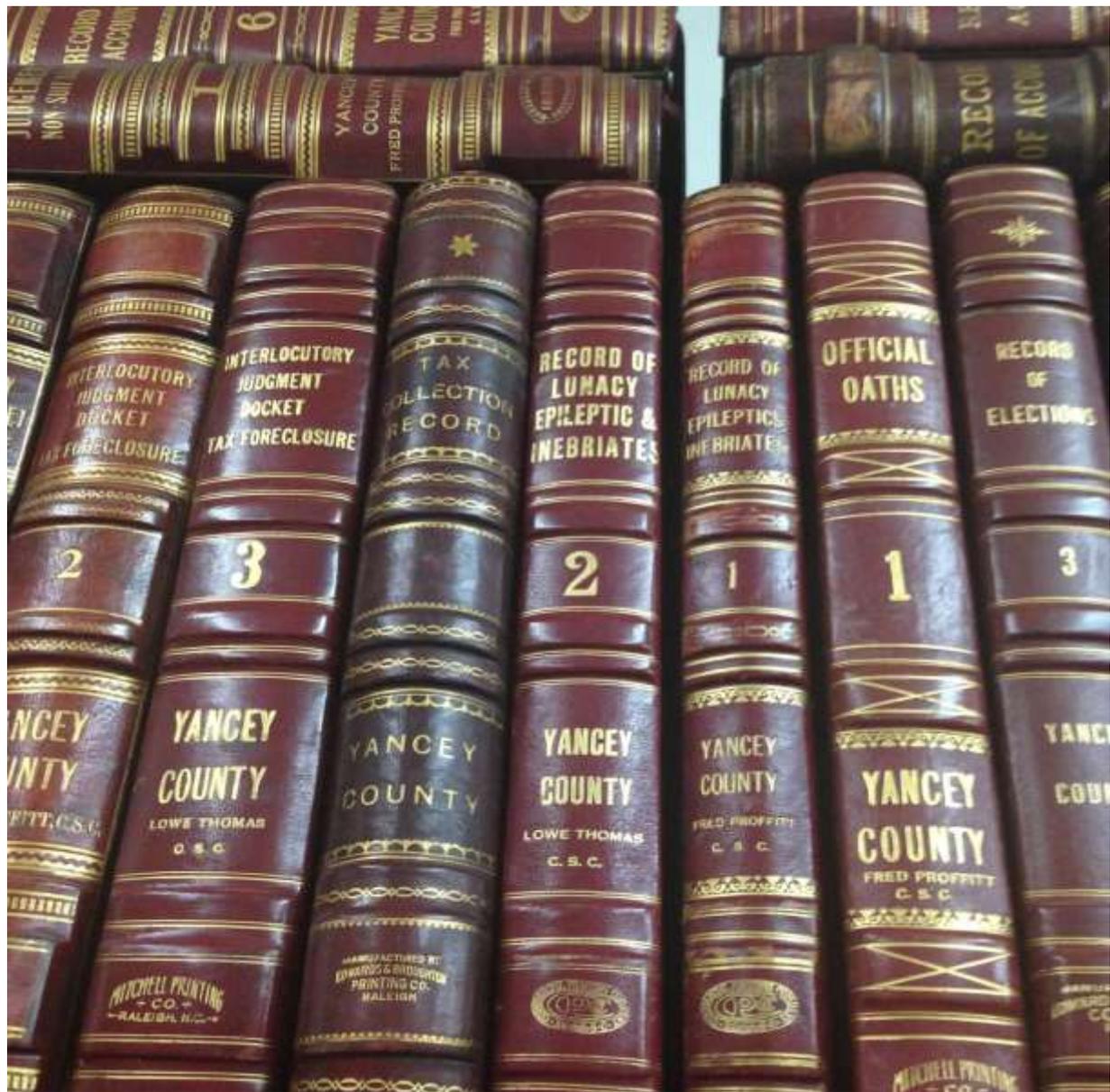
Things that
matter



Things that can
be measured

Purpose of Court Data

- Initially for indexing
 - Fewer data fields
 - Significant/milestone information
- Increased expectations
 - Judicial Branch officials for case management
 - Potential for performance management
 - External audiences



Is There Data?

- Availability

For example:

Is continuance data available for criminal cases filed in 2013?

Yes – Available on outside of shucks

Trial Date 2/29/13 NO. 13 CR 700534
 Cont'd. 8/19/13 11/12/13 4/02/14
 Cont'd. 9/16/13(D) 10/09/13 4/8/14
 Cont'd. 10/28/13 1/30/14

General Court Of Justice
 Superior Court Division

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 efore Nov. 30, 2013)

G.S. 15A-302(e), -931, -932, -1009

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Is There Data?

- Availability

For example:

Is continuance data available for criminal cases filed in 2013?

Yes – Available on outside of shucks

- Paper
- Database (data field available v. required entry)

Is There Data?

- What else might you want to know?

For example:

How many times was a stepson the executor of a estate?

How often does a father get primary custody?







Is There Data (continued)?

- Accessibility
 - Technology cost
 - Data collection and entry costs
 - Data entry – more than just Clerks of Superior Court
 - Periodic sampling v. constant collection
- Consumability
 - Presentation format
 - Standard definitions/meanings

Data Challenges

- Completeness of data
- Required fields for data entry: required by policy or required by software application
- Lack of written definitions for some data fields
- Drop down v. free text fields
- Overcoming a culture of paper is king
- Balancing increased expectations for accessible, consumable, and meaningful data from internal and external groups







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