Exploring the U.S. Criminal Justice Information Systems as an Artifact through an Unearthing and Examination of Web Objects

Reagan Giles
Atiya Avery

Follow this and additional works at: https://aisel.aisnet.org/sais2023

Recommended Citation

This material is brought to you by the Southern (SAIS) at AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). It has been accepted for inclusion in SAIS 2023 Proceedings by an authorized administrator of AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). For more information, please contact elibrary@aisnet.org.
EXPLORING THE U.S. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AS AN IS ARTIFACT THROUGH AN UNEARTHING AND EXAMINATION OF WEB OBJECTS

Reagan Giles  
Auburn University  
reg0035@auburn.edu

Atiya Avery  
Auburn University  
atiyaavery@auburn.edu

ABSTRACT
It is important to understand our criminal justice information systems (CJIS) in the same way we know other types of information systems, as it is often an alluded figure in a wide range of discussions from public safety to privacy to social equity, among others. In this research in progress, we ask, what are the salient features of the CJIS artifact in the United States? Using a digital ethnographic approach and an information systems artifact lens, we collect web objects from each of the 50 official CJIS state websites. Utilizing the IS artifact framework of Lee et al. 2014 we classify the web objects into three distinct IS artifacts: technology artifacts, information artifacts, and cultural artifacts to describe and map the overall CJIS artifact in the United States.

Keywords
Criminal justice information systems, information systems artifact, technology artifact

EXTENDED ABSTRACT
It is important to understand our criminal justice information systems (CJIS) in the same way that we understand the information systems of other knowledge domains. CJIS is often an alluded figure in a wide range of discussions, from public safety to privacy to social equity. Criminal justice information systems are largely hidden from the public purview in contrast to the information systems in other fields, such as those in healthcare and banking, which the general public frequently interacts with. The US criminal justice system relies on information technology, perhaps more than any other field (Ioimo, 2018). Despite the importance of CJIS to our nation’s criminal justice operations since the mid-1960s, very little research has been done on the CJIS as an artifact, its advancement, or regulation (Dunworth, 2000).

In this research in progress, we ask, what are the salient features of the CJIS artifact in the United States? Using a digital ethnographic approach and an information systems (IS) artifact lens, we collect web objects from each of the 50 official CJIS state websites. These web objects consist of web-based official documents, official training information, and official rules and procedures, among other types of objects. Utilizing the information systems (IS) artifact framework of Lee et al. 2014 we classify the web objects into three distinct IS artifact categories, which include technology artifacts, information artifacts, and social artifacts. These IS artifact categories are used to describe and map the overall CJIS artifact for the United States. The technology artifacts serve as human-made tools utilized for problem-solving; in the realm of CJIS, technology artifacts consist of IS frameworks unique to criminal justice as well as hardware and software systems. Further, social artifacts comprise of legislative processes, relationships, governance, and other forms of social interaction and include such artifacts as CJIS state regulations and details on governance oversight committees. Information artifacts serve as the locus for communication, conflict, or coordination and include such artifacts as databases and data uploads. For the US CJIS, all three IS artifact categories are reliant upon one another, and an artifact may not be mutually exclusive to one category. For example, in the US CJIS, a technology artifact, such as a large database, is used to create an information artifact from the sharing of data, which in turn builds on the social artifact once that data is communicated. We find that the IS artifact framework of Lee et al. 2014 helps to create a cohesive mapping of the features of the US CJIS artifact enabling the advancement of research in this area.

REFERENCES