

Abstract

Municipal legal advisors must cite relevant ECLI cases when drafting legal advice letters, but due to poor metadata, inconsistent key-wording, and limited search functions, retrieving the right case is slow and frustrating. We focus on Dutch ECLI cases where the municipality is a party. We apply a RAG-based solution to improve ECLI retrieval during drafting, reducing the average time needed to identify a relevant ECLI citation by at least 30% while maintaining or improving perceived relevance in a user evaluation.

Persona

Maggie

Background

25 y.o. recent law graduate

Tech savvy but small previous experience

Working in a high stress environment. Lots of expectations and deadlines

Motivation & Frustrations

Looking for a support system that saves her time and introduces new perspectives

Current citation system is old and time-wasting

Frankie

Background

55 y.o. legal professional in Gemeente Amsterdam

Experienced in legal advice letter drafting and supervising juniors

Juniors she supervises work with AI

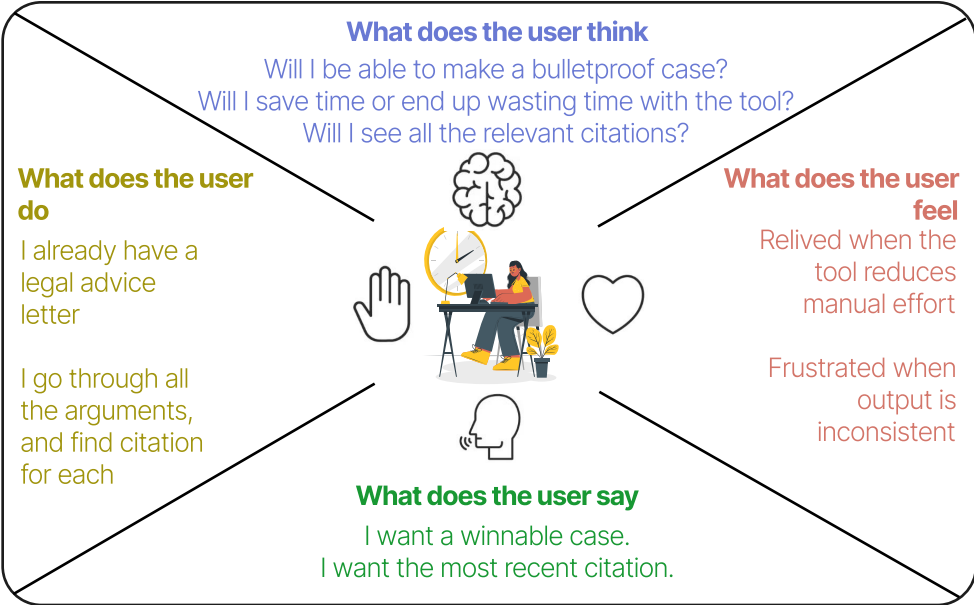
Motivation & Frustrations

Wants to keep up with the latest technology

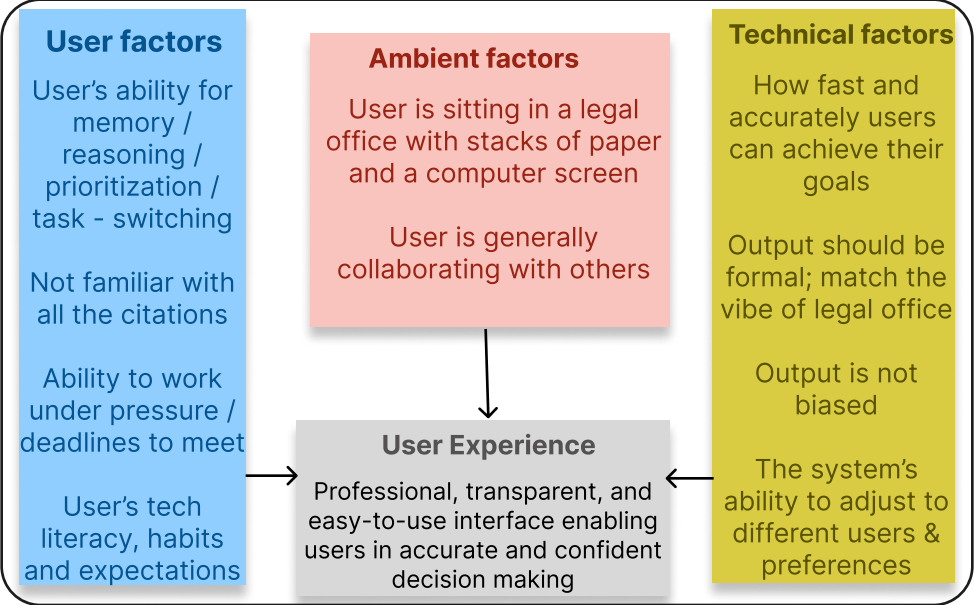
Does not trust AI - spends extra time verifying results

Does not want to spend time learning a new difficult tool

Empathy Map



Ecosystem Map



Terminology

European Case Law Identifier (ECLI): uniform identifier for judicial decisions

Legal Advice Letter: provides concise and practical advice, addressing immediate concerns and guides the client into making informed decisions

Data

Dataset	Size	Scope	Key Fields
Advice letters	567	Bicycle-towing objections	letter_id, zaaktype, onderwerp, dictum, anonymized_text, unique_words, cited_ecli
ECLI cases	2,447	Dutch court rulings	ecli, land, rechtbank, jaar, code, full_text, length

Key Design Features

Core App Features and Evaluation

- **RAG-based citation suggestions** with: **summary** · **verdict** · **law** · **date** · **link** · **relevance score**
- **Sorted** results with recommended co-cited cases
- **Import & export:** upload draft letter, add citations, download updated version
- Built-in **chatbot** for follow-up questions or research
- **Evaluation:** Accuracy checking tool for user-selected citations

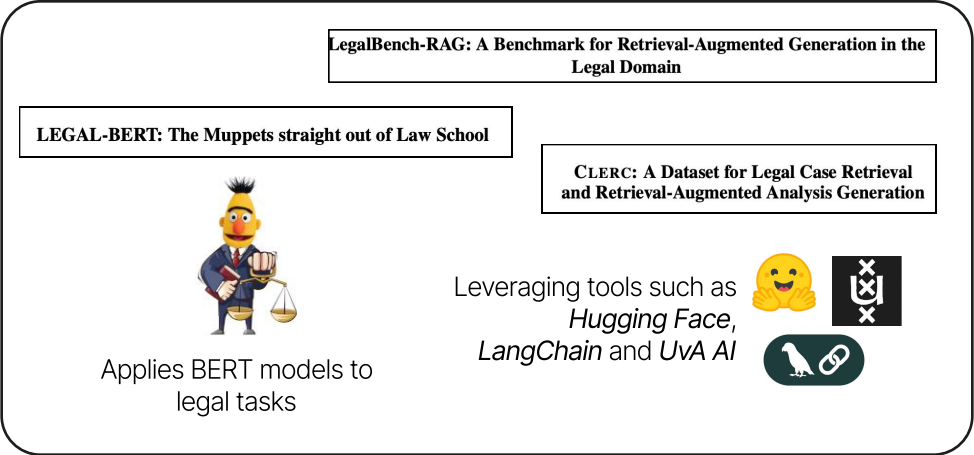
Personalisation

- User can manually mark **missing** relevant citations
- User has a **personal library** of recent / frequently used ECLI for quick **reuse**

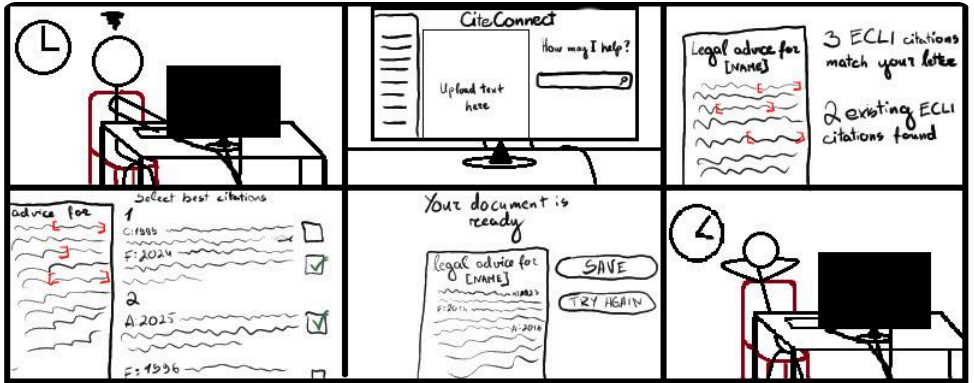
Usability

- **Accessible UI:** colour contrast, light/dark mode, keyboard shortcuts
- Help / guidance buttons for onboarding and **support**

Research



Concept model sketch



References

- <https://www.uva.nl/en>
<https://www.amsterdam.nl/>
<https://www.langchain.com/>
- <https://huggingface.co/>
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2010.02559>
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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2406.17186>