



DISCOVERY AUTOMATION SYSTEM (DAS)

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

670,245 Total number of DAS case folders
3,960,314 Total number of DAS documents
1,096,743,293 Estimated number of DAS pages
361,094 Total number of LEA batch uploads

PARTNERS

Discovery Automation Advisory Committee

USERS

1,616 Users in district attorneys' offices
2,823 Users in defense attorneys' offices
12,449 Users in law enforcement agencies

WHAT USERS ARE SAYING

Assistant Police Chief, Locust, NC

"To say the least, submitting discovery through DAS has significantly decreased the number of trips I make to our district's county seats. With paper files, preparing and delivering discovery files took up a full day of my work week. Now I can do it in less than half that time in my own office and with no transport costs. Seriously, thanks for allowing our agency to be involved."

Stanly County Legal Assistant

"DAS is one of the best AOC systems I have used in my 12 years with the state. It is not only beneficial to district attorney offices, but also to our local law enforcement agencies. DAS enables law enforcement to spend more time protecting our communities than delivering paperwork. Now it is just a scan and click away."

Legal Assistant, Ethridge & Hamlett, LLP

"I believe this is a very efficient way to receive discovery for all attorneys. I thought the CD worked very well, but this is great. I think it is an awesome program, and it makes getting discovery a breeze."



Discovery Automation System (DAS) is an award-winning subsystem of the Court Information System designed to help district attorneys comply with criminal discovery rules, i.e., the statutory requirements for prosecutors to make all discoverable documents related to the investigation or prosecution of crimes committed by a defendant available to defense attorneys. DAS provides electronic access to open discovery of all evidence in felony cases and tracks its disclosure to the defense.

DAS provides a comprehensive set of document intake features, including both the ability to accept electronic documents and the ability to scan paper documents into the system. Multiple documents can be accepted at the same time, each document can be categorized by document type, and detailed case information can be associated with each document. DAS provides features such as redaction and unique page numbering (Bates Numbering) to prepare documents for release, and makes discovery available via a feature to burn CDs and an online electronic download.

DAS provides an online Criminal Discovery component that allows district attorneys to post discovery to a secure website so that defense attorneys assigned to a case may safely, securely, and conveniently download discovery. DAS includes a Criminal Discovery Upload component that allows law enforcement agencies to securely upload electronic documents to DAS. DAS won the 2012 Digital Government Achievement Award in the government-to-government category, and was also named a finalist in the 2012 Recognition Awards in the government-to-business category by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

The DAS advisory group, in conjunction with the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, establishes priorities for enhancements to the system. Future enhancements will further streamline discovery activities, continuing to minimize the physical handling and maintenance of paper documents.



BENEFITS

- Prove what and when discovery was delivered
- Ensure that discovery is seen only by those allowed to see it
- Store all discovery electronically, eliminating rooms full of paper
- Replace burdensome paperbound tasks with fast, easy-to-use electronic processes
- Quit searching for paper files; instead, instantly view files online
- Save dollars on staff time, copier ink, paper, and file storage
- Produce reports and logs of discovery at any time

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

General

- Easy-to-use system requiring minimal user training
- Highly flexible and customizable user views
- Powerful search that quickly provides information on demand
- Email alert generation for changes on the DAS site
- Case folders creation in DAS from CCIS-DA
- Advanced reporting capabilities and audit logs
- Secured access from within the NCAOC intranet
- Access restriction at the case folder or document level
- Subfolder creation

Intake

- Scan and create text-searchable PDFs
- Receive documents via CD, email, or electronic upload
- Upload and check in multiple documents simultaneously
- Assign document categories
- Attach case details

Prepare

- Perform redaction electronically
- Automatically assign unique numbers to documents
- Merge multiple images into a single PDF file

Deliver

- Burn a CD of documents ready for discovery
- Download discovery electronically over a secured site
- View download history
- Email notification of electronic discovery to defense attorneys

View

- Organize and search cases by county in multicounty districts
- View cases by: Document category, DA case number, OCA number, Local ID number, Lead case, PID/LID number
- Document category
- Search by keyword at any level in the user's district

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

