

E-PORTFOLIOS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

CREATED BY MEG ROTH, RESEARCH ASSISTANT & ASHLEY STASIEWICH, FACULTY MENTOR

ABSTRACT

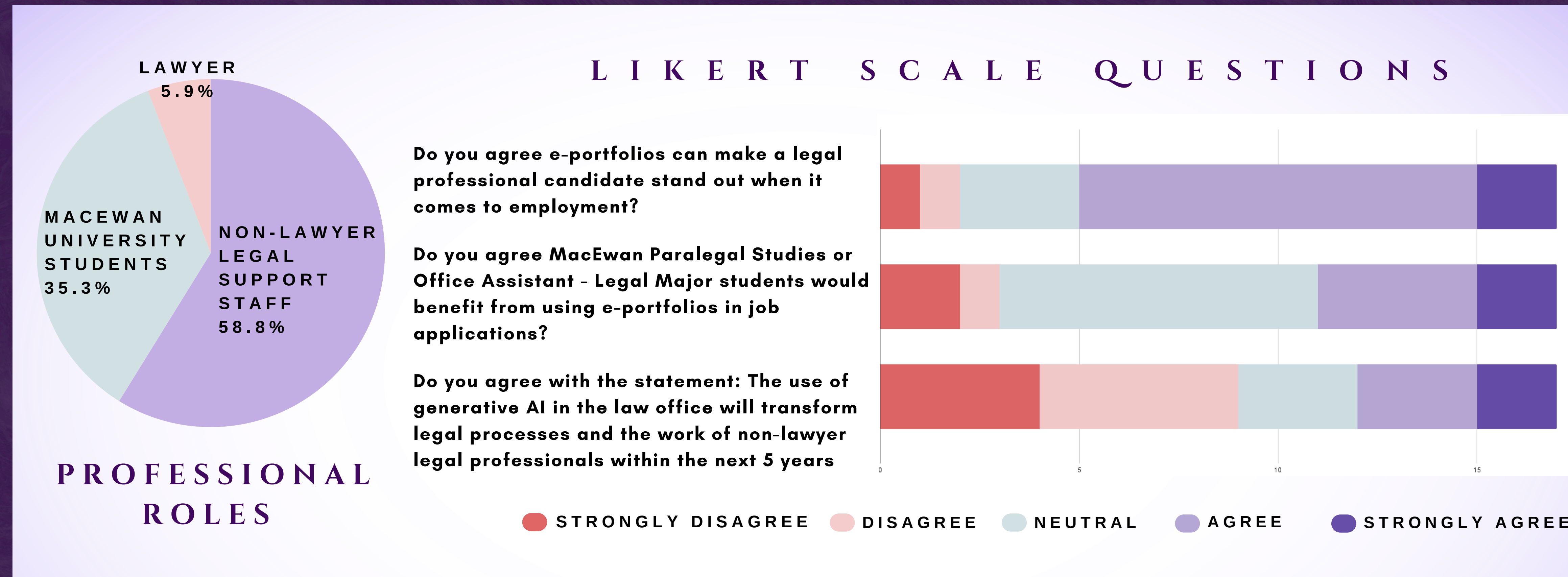
This study primarily explored whether implementing e-portfolios in the hiring process effectively assists in obtaining entry-level employment for legal assistants and/or paralegals ("non-lawyer legal professionals"). Secondly, this study explored the impact of generative artificial intelligence (AI) on this demographic entering the legal profession.

A fictional law firm, Austen Marlow LLP, and numerous guiding resources were created in this project to support future legal professionals in their job search. Resources include 25 fictional scenarios for aspiring legal professionals to use in their e-portfolio development using the platform Google Drive. With a lens to increasing access for those in legal-specific education, these resources hold a Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0 DEED. They can be integrated with author credit in post-secondary institutions' legal assistant/paralegal programs.

OBJECTIVE

To analyze an e-portfolio's value for non-legal lawyer professionals, including MacEwan students, to showcase their skills for entry-level employment in an ever-evolving generative AI landscape.

ANALYSIS



A FICTITIOUS LAW FIRM CREATED BY MEG ROTH



METHOD

A convergent mixed-methods approach was used to conduct a voluntary Google Forms survey on MacEwan University students enrolled in OALS 116 and LEGL 200 courses, as well as legal professionals working in the Edmonton area between March 24 - April 8, 2024.

- LEGL 200 and OALS 116 Winter 2024 classes were sent a Google Forms link within the learning management system for MacEwan University, mēskanās, and emailed a link directly to the Google Form.
- Surveys to legal industry professionals were sent via email with a link directly to the Google Form.

Quantitative (Likert scales) and qualitative data (short responses) were analyzed before comparing the entire data to determine whether the answers confirmed or disconfirmed each other.

CONCLUSION

The mixed responses show potential value in having an e-portfolio. Data limitations existed in this study when analyzing the data. Further study is warranted to analyze this objective, given the sample size and whether AI will affect responses in the future.

