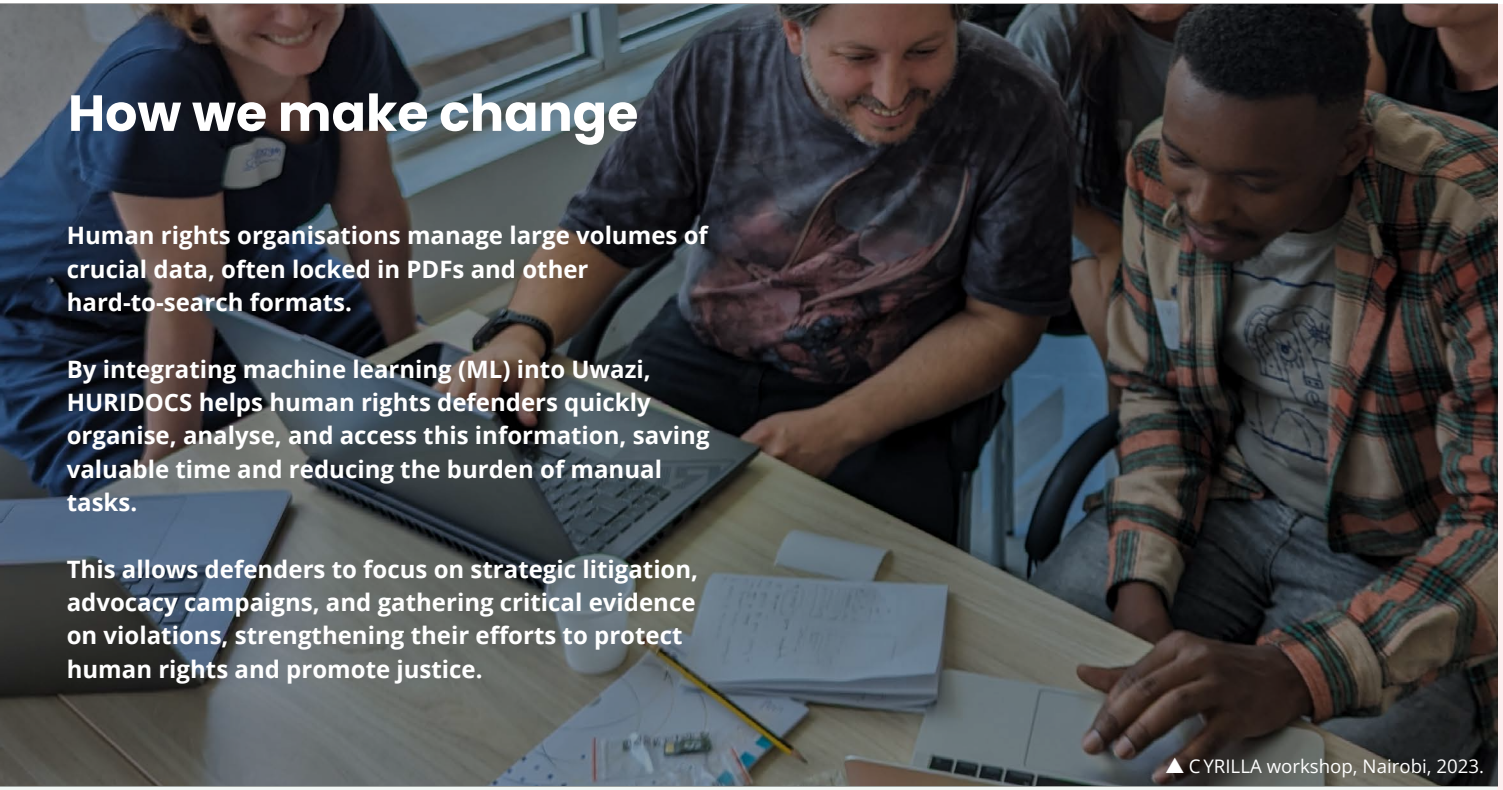
huridocs
human rights information and documentation systems

UWAZI



How we make change

Human rights organisations manage large volumes of crucial data, often locked in PDFs and other hard-to-search formats.

By integrating machine learning (ML) into Uwazi, HURIDOCS helps human rights defenders quickly organise, analyse, and access this information, saving valuable time and reducing the burden of manual tasks.

This allows defenders to focus on strategic litigation, advocacy campaigns, and gathering critical evidence on violations, strengthening their efforts to protect human rights and promote justice.

▲ CYRILLA workshop, Nairobi, 2023.

Machine learning for accessible human rights information

BROADEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Machine learning helps our partners expand access to human rights jurisprudence and international recommendations.

This strengthens their work of raising awareness about human rights.

CLASSIFY INFORMATION FAST AND AT SCALE

Our machine learning features help human rights defenders make sense of key information at an unprecedented speed.

Uwazi's integrated ML tools, reduce the time to classfiy and analyse information by up to 10 times.

Key ML features and capabilities in Uwazi

AUTOMATIC TRANSLATIONS

Provides on the fly translations for texts.

INFORMATION EXTRACTION

Identifies key details like numbers, names, organisations, dates, locations, or larger text sections from documents, emails, or web pages.

PDF SEGMENTATION

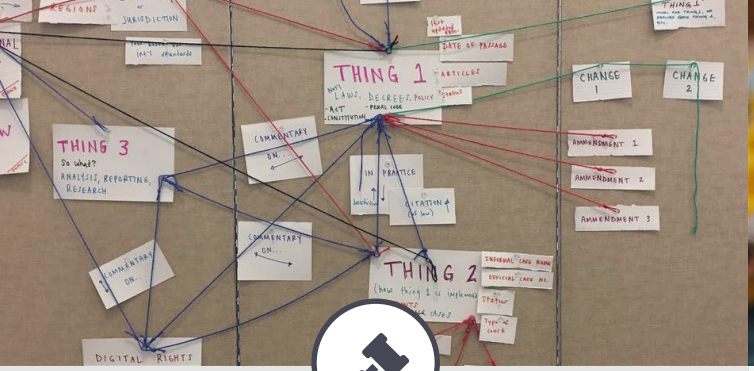
Automatically detects the structure of PDFs, recognising text, images, and tables to improve navigation and make content more accessible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Automatically generates a table of contents for PDF documents.

TOPIC CLASSIFICATION

Automatically assigns a piece of text (like an article, email, or document) to one or more categories or topics.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO DIGITAL RIGHTS INFORMATION

CYRILLA is an online portal that aggregates, organises, and visualises **legal data on digital rights around the world.**

Adding and **manually assigning values** to one document can take **between 30 minutes and three hours** of a researcher's time.

To streamline this process, we developed the Topic Classification feature to **analyse user inputs and suggest relevant labels for uploaded legal documents.**

Over time, the system learns from users' inputs, **continuously improving the accuracy of its recommendations.**

This feature has the potential to extract new types of information from documents and organise them into relevant categories, expanding the ways users can analyse legal data.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CYRILLA

"Our partnership with HURIDOCS strengthens CYRILLA with a powerful metadata extraction tool that improves document processing, reduces errors, and ensures continuous learning. This partnership reinforces CYRILLA as a robust, actionable legal resource worldwide."

—Ibrahim Sabra,
Project Coordinator, CYRILLA

MAPPING ARBITRARY DETENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

SOS-Defenders, built by World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the SOS-Defenders collective, is a multilingual database documenting **arbitrary detentions of human rights defenders worldwide.**

By leveraging ML, the system **automatically detects the language of short texts and translates it into the other active languages** available in the database.

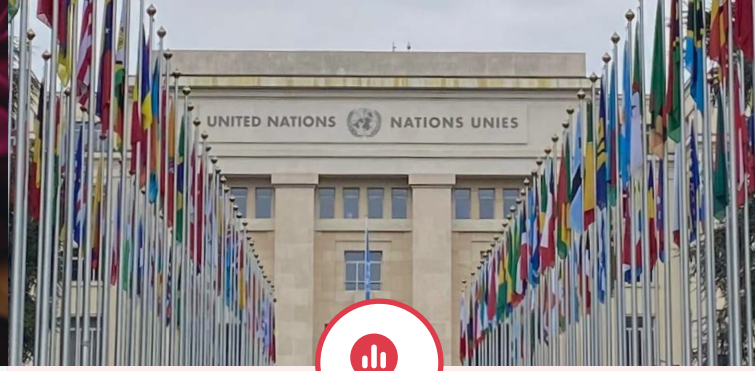
800 records—including detention cases and liberation campaigns from 23 countries—were **automatically translated into five languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.**

The feature has the potential to support many more languages, making critical **human rights information accessible to a broader global audience.**

READ ABOUT SOS-DEFENDERS

"SOS-Defenders is more accessible for CSOs, who won't need to translate the information collected before uploading it, and users, who can browse the information in any of the supported languages. It also reduces the workload for the platform administrator."

—Giuseppe Scirocco,
Human Rights Analyst, OMCT



ACCELERATING INFORMATION ANALYSIS TO MONITOR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY-MAKING

For civil society and other key stakeholders, monitoring the **commitments and decisions across states during the Universal Periodic Review** is an exhausting but essential task. With the amount of documentation involved, curating and analysing information requires diligent effort.

In partnership with UPR Info, HURIDOCS introduced machine learning elements into an existing database containing UPR recommendations and pledges.

These advancements enable users to efficiently **categorise recommendations by topic and action type**, significantly improving data accessibility and analysis.

The database also allows filtering by state, region, organisation, response, and other key criteria, offering a tailored research tool.

GET TO KNOW UPR INFO'S WORK

"Updating the database after each cycle, has taken from two to three months, to taking one week."

—Grace Kwak Danciu,
Chair, HURIDOCS Board