Crime Analysis Software Research Paper

Technology is used by every single criminal justice practitioner in some way, shape or form every day. When it comes to crime analysis technology, it is there to help with accurate analysis of the crime scene or evidence obtained. Some examples of the technology used in crime analysis include computer-aided dispatch, record management system, and geographic information system. Each technology has its own unique role during crime analysis, and all are equally important. The usage of technology for crime analysis reformed crime prevention. Technologically aided crime analysis is a hopeful way of reducing criminals and crime but requires methods of information gathering and retrieving and results in many benefits for communities as well as law enforcement.

Suspects are getting smarter by using more technical and advance ways of committing their crimes. Law enforcement tries to keep up and stay one step ahead of criminals by finding more advanced technology. Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems helps officers to respond to more urgent calls by prioritizing them. A CAD system is a highly specialized system that used telecommunications and geographic display to support police dispatch response operations as well as those of public safety agencies, such as fire and ambulance services (Santos, 2017, p. 113). CAD can also track police officers and can see how long they have been out on a call; this is good for officers’ safety. According to McEwen, Ahn, Pendleton, Webster, & Williams (2002), CAD systems were developed by vendors in the 1960s to support two key objectives of the professional policing model: (1) satisfying citizens with rapid responses to all calls for services and (2) effecting arrests to reduce crime (McEwen, Ahn, Pendleton, Webster, & Williams, 2002,

p. 1). Today’s CAD systems are further enhanced with applications linking to a department’s records management system (McEwen, Ahn, Pendleton, Webster, & Williams, 2002, p. 18).

Almost all department have went to downloading Management Information System (MIS) into their computers. This program let officer’s record, store, and access data from reported crimes, arrests, gun permits, warrants, and calls, which is a records management system (RMS). RMS is the informational heart of any police department’s operations (Santos, 2017, p. 113). Some police agencies enter information directly into the RMS, whereas others download information to the RMS from other software programs, such as CAD or crime reportwriting software (Santos, 2017, p. 113). Officers can obtain information quicker than having to call dispatch and waiting to get the information back to them. According to Harris and Romesburg (2001), twenty-first-century RMSs go beyond the collection and storage of information by offering robust analytical tools, seamless sharing information, and complex linkages between different data sources. As such, RMS technology serves as a key component of effective decision making (Technology, Records Management Systems, and Calls for Service).

The essential technology for crime analysis is geographic information systems (GIS). Crime analysts enter data about the geographic features associated with crime and other activity into GIS for analysis purposes (Santos, 2017, p. 113). With the help of GIS, police officers can be able to predict the further development of crime. GIS also allows dispatchers to see a 911 caller’s approximate location on a map which is integrated with the phone system. The use of GIS is an essential component of tactical crime analysis, as spatial characteristics are key factors to linking criminal activity and identifying relationships (Velasco & Boba, 2000, p. 2). Police officers can be able to predict the further development of the crime and useful for arranging police officers during various operations.

The aim of crime analysis in the context of law enforcement is to provide information that will inform and assist crime control activity (Velasco & Boba, 2000, p. 1). Crime analysis can be conducted with the help of numerous modern technologies. Computer-aided dispatch, record management system, and geographic information system are essential. The necessary information for crime analysis can be collected and stored with the help of a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Most police departments are going with community policing and finding new technology to help them do better. Law enforcement today uses computers in vehicles, DNA, Crime mapping, fingering identification systems, and other new technology. If they do not, then criminals will slip right pass them. As a result, crime analysis provides benefits for both law enforcement and the community.

Resources

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