



Comparative Review on Acceptance of Digital Evidence within the Legal Frameworks of Pakistan and China

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this article was to provide an extensive comparative investigation of the treatment and acceptance of digital evidence within the legal frameworks of Pakistan and China. In recent times, both nations have recognized the profound influence of technology on present-day culture. The acknowledgement of this phenomenon has prompted them to adopt strategies targeted at governing and effectively incorporating digital evidence into their separate judicial systems. In order to achieve this objective, the study conducts a comprehensive analysis of the relevant legislative provisions in both countries, investigates notable instances that illustrate the treatment of digital evidence within their respective legal frameworks, and investigates the prevailing strategies that have been used. The primary goal was to derive useful lessons and insights from these comparative observations, to subsequently apply them to a global environment.

Keywords: Digital Evidence; Digital Forensics; Legal Framework; Digital Law

1. Introduction

The expeditious progression of digital technology has resulted in significant transformations in the manner in which evidence is presented and managed inside court processes (Afzal, Donoghue 2017). The advent of the digital era has brought about significant changes in evidence since there is now an increasing dependence on digital data, electronic communications, and technical relics (Garrie 2014, Afzal 2024). The phenomenon of this change extends beyond technologically advanced Western nations and China since rising economies such as Pakistan also grappling with the intricacies of this process (Afzal 2024). Rising nations are confronted with the complex challenge of effectively incorporating digital evidence into their legal frameworks, which are deeply entrenched in conventional methodologies (Afzal 2024). This research study extensively examines the admissibility of

digital evidence within the legal systems of Pakistan and China. The objective of this study is to provide insight into the distinct obstacles and advantages that these nations face when adjusting to the era of digitalization. This study provides unique insights into how these two nations are addressing the changing environment of evidence in the 21st century through an examination of their legislative frameworks, significant judicial decisions, and practical practices. The examination of the admissibility of digital evidence in Pakistan and China has great importance given the growing significance of digital information in modern society. Digital evidence can comprise a diverse array of formats, such as electronic mail, text-based communications, social media publications, video recordings from surveillance systems, and digitalized documents (Marshall 2009, Afzal 2024). As the prevalence of various types of evidence increases, it becomes crucial for legal systems to create explicit norms and procedures for their admissibility in court (Ross 2021, Afzal 2024). Both Pakistan and China are strategically manoeuvring through this intricate landscape, taking into account their distinct legal frameworks and socio-political environments. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of how these nations engage with digital evidence, encompassing the legislative frameworks that govern its utilization, significant cases that establish legal precedents, and practical methodologies for its management, can yield valuable insights not only for these specific countries but also for the wider global legal community (Stiglitz 1999, Afzal 2024).

This article aims to add to the continuing conversation on how legal systems worldwide might adapt to the difficulties and possibilities posed by the digital era, by examining the experiences of Pakistan and China in this context. This underscores the necessity for ongoing development and improvement of legal methodologies to guarantee the preservation of values about equity and impartiality within a technological and information-driven society. Furthermore, the objective of this article is

- To facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and foster collaboration among nations, as they endeavor to align their legal frameworks with the requirements of the digital age
- To provide guidelines and suggestions with global significance for legal systems, taking into account the experiences of Pakistan and China
- To recognize the growing impact of technology on the practice of law

2. Assessment of Prior Investigation

The admissibility of digital evidence in judicial proceedings has significant importance in the process of digital transformation in both China and Pakistan. The admissibility of digital recordings in judicial processes in China is regulated by a set of laws and regulations, as outlined by Pan and Duranti (Pan and Duranti 2020); the Chinese legal system places significant emphasis on the recognition of evidence collecting and preservation conducted by a neutral

third party. This practice is seen as crucial in safeguarding the integrity of records and enhancing their prospects of being admitted as evidence in court(Afzal 2024). They highlight the possibility of the InterPARES Trust PaaST model as a solution to mitigate the issues associated with the admission of digital evidence in China(Pan 2019, Pan and Duranti 2020). The formal recognition and incorporation of digital evidence in legal processes in Pakistan commenced in 2002, as documented by Khan(Khan and Bhatti 2023). In the present context, the term "digital evidence" refers to any type of evidence that is generated, saved, or communicated using digital technologies, as described by Khan. The acknowledgement and use of digital evidence are crucial in the implementation of criminal justice in Pakistan, and the development of legislation concerning its acceptability has significant significance. According to Khan, the aforementioned legislative advancements are crucial in guaranteeing the optimal and proficient operation of the criminal justice system in Pakistan. Not only do they effectively adapt to the technical innovations of the digital era, but they also play a significant role in ensuring fair and comprehensive resolution of criminal cases, therefore safeguarding the fundamental concepts of justice and due process within the nation. Moreover, the incorporation of digital evidence into the legal framework of Pakistan exemplifies the wider international phenomenon of modifying legal systems to align with the digital age. The significance of electronic records, digital communications, and computer-generated data as evidentiary sources cannot be overstated in the context of a progressively digitalized society(Vazquez Maymir 2020). These types of evidence frequently offer indispensable perspectives and facts that are pivotal in the adjudication of legal conflicts and the advancement of equitable outcomes(Winn and Yuping 2006). The evolution of legal frameworks about the admissibility of digital evidence serves several objectives. The use of digital information not only facilitates the effective utilization of the legal system but also develops protocols and measures to guarantee the integrity, validity, and dependability of said evidence(Daniel 2011, Afzal 2024). These regulations serve the purpose of safeguarding the rights of both the prosecution and defence, as well as the rights of persons whose data may be implicated(Wiggins 2006). The progression of legislation of digital evidence in Pakistan signifies a notable advancement towards a judicial system that is both contemporary and fair. The ongoing progression of technology necessitates a corresponding evolution of the legal framework to safeguard the fundamental values of equity, openness, and precision in criminal procedures. The nation's dedication to adopting technological advancements while yet adhering to the fundamental principles of its legal framework are evident.

The acceptance of digital evidence in both China and Pakistan is contingent upon adherence to specified rules and processes that are implemented to safeguard the credibility and authenticity of the evidence. The determination of the admissibility of digital evidence in China is largely regulated by established legal regulations and the existence of well-defined Standard

Operating Procedures (SOP)(You 2020). In the Chinese context, the authentication procedure for digital evidence necessitates a thorough and rigorous approach, often requiring the involvement of individuals specialized in the field of digital forensics. These professionals play a vital role in validating the genuineness and reliability of the digital evidence. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) used for digital forensics services in China functions as a complete framework that outlines the proper procedures for managing digital evidence throughout the whole process. This Statement of Purpose delineates the exact procedures entailed in the identification, preservation, gathering, analysis, and presentation of digital evidence. The implementation of these procedures is crucial not only for guaranteeing the dependability of digital evidence but also for protecting the rights of all individuals engaged in judicial processes. China seeks to protect the ideals of justice and accuracy in its judicial system by following these processes.(Potter 2005) It acknowledges the significance of preserving the integrity of digital evidence in a time characterized by technological progress(Stoyanova, Nikoloudakis et al. 2020). The implementation of this thorough methodology guarantees that digital evidence is handled with the highest level of precision and expertise, hence enhancing the legitimacy and efficacy of the criminal justice system in China(Kallil and Yaacob 2019). China's dedication to upholding a strong and equitable judicial system in the digital era is shown by the implementation of standardized protocols and the inclusion of digital forensics specialists in their approach to digital evidence. These techniques serve the dual purpose of verifying the credibility of digital evidence and mitigating potential obstacles, such as data tampering, hacking, or manipulation. Furthermore, the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the management of digital evidence guarantees the maintenance of consistent and standardized processes throughout various legal jurisdictions within China. Ensuring uniformity is of utmost importance in order to prevent inconsistencies or conflicts pertaining to the acceptability and management of digital evidence throughout diverse judicial systems around the nation(Haque, Abbasi et al. 2023). China establishes a model for other nations facing comparable difficulties in modernizing their legal systems to the digital era through the utilization of digital forensics specialists and well-articulated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The aforementioned paradigm offers a framework for the systematic and thorough management of digital evidence, a crucial aspect in contemporary criminal investigations and legal processes on a global scale. In essence, the implementation of these protocols and criteria plays a pivotal role in upholding trust and bolstering faith in the legal system, therefore guaranteeing the dependability and efficacy of digital evidence as a means to achieve justice within the Chinese context.

In Pakistan, the admissibility of digital evidence is contingent upon adherence to the admissibility criteria outlined in the legal legislation, as well as the presence of any Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)(Hameed, Qaiser et al. 2021). The

verification of digital evidence by professionals in the field of digital forensics is a vital aspect in establishing its admissibility within the judicial system of Pakistan (Abbasi, Rafique et al. 2021). It is noteworthy to mention that the admission of digital evidence encompasses not only national courts but also extends to international courts. The admissibility of digital evidence is also addressed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (Roscini 2016); the scholarly paper explores the legal acceptability of digital evidence that has been acquired unlawfully by a party through one-sided cross-border access to data. Roscini (Roscini 2016) argues that it is crucial to have particular laws in place to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of digital evidence. However, it is also important to have a level of flexibility to effectively manage the distinct circumstances and obstacles that arise in each individual case.

In summary, both China and Pakistan have acknowledged the significance of establishing regulations pertaining to the admission of digital evidence within their respective legal frameworks. The regulations and protocols pertaining to the admission of digital evidence play a pivotal role in safeguarding the credibility and dependability of said evidence within legal processes. The process of verifying the authenticity of digital evidence holds considerable importance in the field of digital forensics since it directly influences its admissibility in legal proceedings. In addition, it is necessary to establish distinct norms and protocols in order to effectively tackle the distinctive obstacles presented by digital evidence inside domestic and international judicial systems.

3. Relevant Provisions of Pakistani Law and Chinese Law

3.1. Pakistani Law

In Pakistan, the admissibility of digital evidence is governed by several legal provisions and regulations. Some of the key provisions include:

Pakistan Electronic Transactions Ordinance, 2002: The Pakistan Electronic Transactions Ordinance enacted in 2002 is of significant importance in the establishment of a comprehensive legislative structure that regulates electronic transactions and the utilization of digital signatures within the jurisdiction of Pakistan. Section 5 of this ordinance plays a pivotal role in establishing the acceptability of electronic records and digital signatures as evidentiary material in legal processes (Ravich 2015). It is recognized that, under appropriate circumstances and contingent upon the fulfilment of specific requirements, electronic records and digital signatures can be acknowledged and accepted as legally legitimate evidence in a court of law. The legal acceptance of electronic evidence highlights the importance of digital records and digital signatures in present-day legal procedures, demonstrating the awareness within Pakistan's legal system of the growing relevance of technology in our digital era. This provision serves the dual purpose of enhancing the effective management of electronic evidence and fostering the broader flexibility of the legal system in Pakistan to align with the contemporary realities of the globalized era (Taylor 2014).



Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, 2016: The Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act of 2016 is a legislative measure that aims to tackle a wide range of cybercrimes, encompassing the unauthorized use of electronic systems and data. The document has clauses pertaining to the acceptability of electronic evidence, protocols for conducting investigations, and sanctions for violations concerning digital data and systems(Yongmei and Afzal 2023).

Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order, 1984: The Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order of 1984 is a comprehensive legislative enactment that governs the principles and procedures about the law of evidence within the jurisdiction of Pakistan(Majeed, Hilal et al. 2022). The document encompasses requirements pertaining to the acceptability of documentary evidence, encompassing electronic data. The definition of "document" as outlined in Section 2(17) of the order includes electronic documents within its scope. Section 65B of the relevant legislation especially pertains to the admission of electronic evidence. Table 1 shows the relevant legal provision and their description. Table 1 shows the legal provision of digital evidence in Pakistan.

Table 1:

Legal provision of digital evidence in Pakistan

Legal Framework/Provision	Description
Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order, 1984	A comprehensive law governing the law of evidence in Pakistan.
Section 2(17) - Definition of "Document"	Defines "document" to encompass electronic records. This inclusion recognizes the relevance and admissibility of electronic records as a form of documentary evidence in legal proceedings.
Section 65B - Admissibility of Electronic Evidence	Specifically addresses the admissibility of electronic evidence, laying down procedural and evidentiary requirements for its acceptance in court. This section sets standards for the proper handling, authentication, and presentation of electronic evidence in legal cases.

Case Law: It is important to highlight that case law has a big impact on whether digital evidence is admissible. The Zanib Qatal Case and other important precedent-setting cases have been crucial in establishing the legitimacy and admission of digital evidence in Pakistan's court system (Malik 2021).

3.2. Chinese Law

A variety of laws, rules, and court interpretations control the admission of digital evidence in China. Among the important clauses are:

Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China (2017): The protection of vital information infrastructure and data security are topics covered by the Chinese Cybersecurity

Law. Additionally, it discusses the admissibility of digital evidence in court proceedings and explains network providers' obligations to do so(Qi, Shao et al. 2018).

Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China (2017): The filing and verification of electronic evidence in civil action is covered under the Chinese Civil Procedure Law. It describes how to gather, present, and object to electronic evidence in court(Gong 2017).

Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China (2018): A fundamental legislative framework that governs how criminal cases are handled in China is the Criminal Procedure Law. Important requirements regarding the gathering and acceptance of digital evidence in criminal proceedings are included in this extensive piece of law. These regulations set forth the guidelines and requirements that must be followed while working with digital evidence during criminal investigations and court proceedings(Haiqing 2021). The Criminal Procedure Law of China also recognises how crucial data privacy and protection are in the modern world. It acknowledges the need to protect people's rights and make sure that handling and gathering digital evidence doesn't violate privacy rights. This shows China's dedication to finding a balance between the efficient use of digital evidence in criminal cases and the protection of individual's data and privacy, an important factor in today's technologically evolved society.

Judicial Interpretations: The Supreme People's Court of China has produced judicial interpretations that offer direction on a variety of legal matters, including the admission of digital evidence. These interpretations offer courts direction on determining the reliability of electronic evidence while also clarifying the processes for gathering and storing such evidence(Zhang 2010). It is significant to note that China and Pakistan are both working to improve their legal systems to handle the changing problems posed by digital evidence. The admissibility of digital evidence in both nations may also be impacted by international treaties and agreements(Mifsud Bonnici, Tudorica et al. 2018). To negotiate the complexities of digital evidence in various jurisdictions, researchers and legal practitioners should keep up with legislative developments and case law(Casey 2019).

4. Landmarks from Pakistan and China

4.1. Zanib Qatal Case (Lahore, Pakistan)

An important illustration of how digital evidence may be used in court in Pakistan is the Zanib Qatal Case, which took place in the city of Lahore. In this instance, the timing and circumstances surrounding the crime were established with the use of digital evidence, such as mobile phone records, text messages, and social media conversations(ul Amin, Khan et al. 2020). This digital evidence was used by the prosecution to show the defendant's involvement in the case. As a result of the court's admission of this electronic evidence, a precedent for the acceptability of digital evidence in Pakistan's legal system was established, emphasizing the value of technical improvements in criminological research and court proceedings.



4.2 The Murder of Xiaorong Zhang (Shanghai, China)

Xiaorong Zhang's murder in Shanghai, China, is another example of how the use of digital evidence was crucial (Jiahong 2016, Jiahong 2016). In this instance, the identification of the offender and the development of the sequence of events were both made possible by surveillance video from security cameras placed close to the crime site (Liang 2021). Additionally, digital evidence from the suspect's computer, such as social network activity and internet search history, offered vital details about the crime's motivation and premeditation. China has acknowledged the usefulness of digital evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions, as seen by the court's admission of it and reliance on it to get a conviction.

These historic examples from China and Pakistan demonstrate the expanding importance of digital evidence in contemporary court procedures. They emphasize the necessity for judicial systems to change to reflect the digital era and create precise rules for the processing and admission of electronic evidence. Such examples also demonstrate how technology may improve criminal case investigation and decision-making, ensuring that justice is administered efficiently and equitably in the modern world (McCauley, Ramasar et al. 2019).

5. Legal Framework and Legislation

By passing laws like the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, of 2016, and the Electronic Transactions Ordinance, of 2002, to handle digital evidence, Pakistan has achieved tremendous progress in recent years. However, its legal system is still developing and might want further explanation and revision. With extensive regulations like the Cybersecurity Law and the Criminal Procedure Law expressly addressing the gathering and admissibility of digital evidence, China has a well-established legal framework controlling this type of evidence. The legal foundation is further strengthened by the development of thorough Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for digital forensics services. Table 2 compares the legal framework and legislation around digital evidence in Pakistan and China:

5.1. Authentication and Expert Involvement

Pakistan: Pakistan recognizes the value of digital evidence but may run into difficulties when trying to authenticate and present it in court. It's possible that the use of digital forensics professionals is not as uniform as it is in China.

China: Through the use of digital forensics professionals, China places a great focus on the authenticity and careful treatment of digital evidence. The use of digital evidence in criminal trials is handled systematically according to SOPs.

Table 2:
Legislation regarding digital evidence in Pakistan and China

Pakistan	China
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Key Laws	Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act 2016, Electronic Transactions Ordinance 2002	Cybersecurity Law, Criminal Procedure Law
Standard Operating Procedures	Not well-defined	Detailed SOPs for digital forensics services
Admissibility of Digital Evidence	Evolving needs further clarification	Addressed in-laws
Comprehensiveness of Laws	Limited, still evolving	Comprehensive laws specifically addressing digital evidence
Overall Assessment	Made significant progress but the legal framework still developing	Well-established and comprehensive legal framework

5.2 Privacy and Data Protection

Pakistan: With the introduction of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance, Pakistan has taken steps to address concerns about data protection and privacy. However, further research may be necessary to determine if these safeguards are sufficient to protect people's rights in the digital era.

Table 3:
Data Protection Framework and Stringency of Laws

Aspect	Pakistan	China
Data Protection Framework	Pakistan has taken steps to address data protection and privacy through measures like the Electronic Transactions Ordinance.	China has introduced comprehensive data protection and cybersecurity laws, including the Cybersecurity Law.
Stringency of Laws	While Pakistan has initiated efforts to protect data and privacy in the digital age, the extent of stringency may vary and require further evaluation.	China has implemented stringent.

China: China has enacted strict data protection and cybersecurity regulations, such as the Cybersecurity Law, which demonstrates its dedication to striking a balance between the use of digital evidence and strong privacy safeguards. A comparison between Pakistan and China is given in [Table 3](#).

5.3 Uniformity and Consistency

Pakistan: There may be variations in how digital evidence is handled in Pakistan due to different practices from one jurisdiction to the next.

China: Standardized practices and standards (SOPs) for digital forensics services are advantageous for China because they promote consistency and uniformity in how digital evidence is handled throughout the nation.



Table 4 shows a comparison of uniformity and consistency in the use of digital evidence in Pakistan and China:

Table 4:
Comparison between Pakistan and China

	Pakistan	China
Uniformity across jurisdictions	Low - practices vary across jurisdictions leading to inconsistencies	High - High-standardised procedures followed uniformly across the country
National guidelines or SOPs	Limited - some guidelines issued but lack detailed procedures	Extensive - detailed guidelines and SOPs developed for digital forensics
Accreditation of labs	No national accreditation framework, and quality varies	Mandatory accreditation for digital forensic labs and examiners
Admissibility in courts	Judges have discretion, may not consistently admit digital evidence	More consistent admission due to accredited forensic procedures
Training of investigators	Lacks standardized training, skills vary	Systematic training programs for forensic examiners
Cooperation between agencies	Weak information sharing between investigation agencies	Coordinated approach between police, prosecutors and courts

Both Pakistan and China recognize the importance of digital evidence in their legal systems, and China has established a more comprehensive and standardized framework for its admissibility and handling. Pakistan is in the process of developing its legal framework and practices surrounding digital evidence and could benefit from further refinement and alignment with international best practices to ensure the effective use of digital evidence in its courts.

6. Common Lesson from China

Recognizing the crucial role of technology in the judicial system and the necessity for thorough regulation and procedures in the digital era are two lessons that may be learned from China's approach to digital evidence.

6.1. Embracing Technological Advancements

The importance of understanding and embracing technological changes in the legal sphere is underlined by China's proactive commitment to incorporating digital evidence into its legal system. The foundation of this lesson is the recognition of the tremendous influence that technology has had on contemporary society and, consequently, the legal system. China's acknowledgement of this profundity shows that it recognizes how the digital age has changed how people engage with information, perform commerce, and communicate, leading to a

considerable rise in the production and use of digital data. China has taken a proactive approach in incorporating digital evidence into its judicial system, showing that it is conscious that ignoring or rejecting technological developments may result in inefficiencies, possible injustices, and the inability to effectively address new difficulties. China is aggressively looking for methods to use digital evidence because it recognizes how technology may improve the efficacy and efficiency of legal procedures. For the judicial system to operate more effectively and efficiently, proactive technological integration is crucial. Digital evidence provides simpler procedures, less paperwork, and quicker information availability. Additionally, the legal system can maintain its relevance and legitimacy in the eyes of the general public by adjusting to shifting cultural norms generated by technology. It is essential to embrace technological development so that legal systems may better meet the changing requirements of society in the contemporary digital era.

6.2. Legal Adaptation to the Digital Age

The Cybersecurity Law and the Criminal Procedure Law, both of which China has developed, demonstrate the importance of adjusting legal institutions to the digital era. By making this adjustment, the judicial system is guaranteed to stay functional and effective in resolving current issues brought on by digital evidence.

6.3. Balancing Convenience and Privacy

China's dedication to striking a careful balance between convenience and privacy by combining the use of digital evidence with strong privacy protections is important. This lesson underlines how important it is for judicial systems to put protecting people's rights first while utilizing the advantages of digital evidence for the administration of justice.

6.4. Standardization for Consistency

The necessity of standardized processes to maintain uniformity in processing digital evidence across diverse legal jurisdictions is highlighted by China's adoption of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for digital forensics services. The need for consistency and predictability in judicial processes using digital evidence is highlighted in this course.

6.5. Expert Involvement and Training

The use of digital forensics professionals in China to authenticate and analyse digital evidence highlights the value of experience when working with complicated digital data. The importance of education and the development of specific skills among legal professionals and digital forensics specialists is emphasised in this lecture.

6.6 International Cooperation and Compliance

The importance of international collaboration and compliance is demonstrated by China's attempts to harmonise its data protection and cybersecurity regulations with international norms. In order to expedite cross-border legal processes using digital evidence,



this lesson advises nations to promote international partnerships and abide by global data protection standards.

The urgency of adopting technology, adjusting regulatory frameworks to the digital age, finding a balance between convenience and privacy, standardising methods, investing in knowledge, and fostering international collaboration are, in short, the key takeaways from China. These guidelines can help other countries successfully integrate digital evidence into their legal frameworks while protecting justice, fairness, and individual rights.

7. Discussion and Remarks

The investigation into whether digital evidence is admissible in Pakistan and China raises a number of important questions and ramifications for the wider context of the judicial system and technology developments. Key observations and opinions are condensed in this discussion and notes section:

7.1. Technological Evolution and Legal Adaptation

Both China and Pakistan have experienced enormous technical developments that have changed how people interact, conduct business, and save information. The judicial systems in these nations have adjusted to this changing environment by realising the need to control and incorporate digital evidence into legal procedures. [Table 5](#) compares the technological evolution and legal adaptation in Pakistan and China.

7.2. Privacy and Data Protection Balancing Act

Finding the ideal balance between using digital evidence for effective justice delivery and protecting people's privacy and data protection rights is a critical problem for both nations. The lessons learned from China highlight the significance of strong legal systems that successfully balance these conflicting interests.

7.3. Legal Clarity and Uniformity

It is essential to ensure legal clarity and consistency regarding the admissibility of digital evidence. The risk of inconsistencies between jurisdictions is decreased by standard operating procedures, as seen in China's SOPs for digital forensics services.

7.4. Expertise and Training

The involvement of digital forensics experts plays a vital role in maintaining the credibility of digital evidence. Both countries can benefit from investing in specialized training and fostering a pool of experts who can navigate the complexities of digital data.

Table 4:
Legal adaptation in Pakistan and China

	Pakistan	China
Key Technologies	Mobile phones, internet, social media, digital payments	Artificial intelligence, facial recognition, 5G networks, mobile payments

Legal Developments	Electronic Transactions Ordinance 2002 recognizes digital signatures and electronic documents as legally valid.	Cybersecurity Law regulates network security and data protection.
Use of Digital Evidence in Courts	Since the early 2000s, guidelines issued for collection and submission	Since the 2010s, standards developed for collecting and examining digital forensic evidence
Data Protection Laws	Some provisions in PECA 2016, broader law in the draft stage	Cybersecurity Law has data privacy requirements, and Personal Information Protection Law is in the draft stage
Monitoring & Surveillance	The government can monitor digital communications under PECA	Real-name registration required for social media accounts and other online services
Regulation of Online Content	PECA penalizes publishing online content against state institutions, religion, etc.	Tight control and censorship of online content not aligned with government policies

8. Conclusion

The comparative examination of digital evidence admissibility in Pakistan and China illuminates the changing importance of technology in judicial systems. The significant effect of technology on modern life has led these two nations to regulate and incorporate digital evidence into their judicial systems. The 2002 Pakistan Electronic Transactions Ordinance launched Pakistan's recognition of digital evidence's value. Further legislation, such as the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, has shaped digital evidence in the country. Zaniq Qatal and other landmark instances established its admissibility. Pakistan still struggles to standardize processes and balance digital evidence and privacy. However, China's Cybersecurity Law and Criminal Procedure Law completely cover digital evidence. SOPs for digital forensics services provide consistency and dependability in processing digital evidence. China prioritizes privacy when using digital evidence in court procedures. Both countries learned the necessity of adopting technology, balancing digital evidence and privacy, standardizing procedures, employing digital forensics professionals, and fostering international collaboration. These insights help legal systems globally adapt to the digital era. To administer justice effectively, legal institutions must adapt to changing technologies. Pakistan and China demonstrate the need for legislative clarity, privacy protection, and digital evidence competence. By incorporating these lessons and adapting, legal systems globally can traverse the digital era and improve justice delivery for all.

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