About LexisNexis Academic Universe

LexisNexis Academic Universe provides access to documents from over 17,000 legal, business, and news sources. Specifically, it provides full-text articles of law review articles from over 800 publications; federal and state cases and statutes; federal regulations; over 1,500 legal newspapers, magazines, and newsletters; patents; law school directories; and case law from foreign countries. It also has detailed financial information on over 80 million public, private, and foreign companies, information on over 80 million executives, and SEC filings and reports. It also has an extensive coverage of news articles, including full-text articles from over 3,000 newspapers and 2,000 journals and magazines. And more!

Dates of Coverage:
Dates of coverage vary with each publication contained within LexisNexis. Some of the legal information dates back to 1790.

Access:
1) From the CPLA homepage (http://www.library.illinois.edu/cpla) under Key Databases.
2) From the Online Journals and Databases link search for “Lexis Nexis Academic Universe” and follow the link.
3) From Databases by Subject page, search for “lexis.”

**When off campus, log in with your UIUC NetID and password.

Types of searches:
1) **Academic Search (aka Natural Language Searching)** is the default search that uses a complex algorithm to select relevant results. The search box searches four major group files simultaneously, including:
   - Newspapers (domestic and international)
   - Law Reviews
   - Company Profiles
   - Federal and State Cases
This type of search does not require the use of Boolean operators. Simply enter a combination of keywords that you think will return the most relevant results.

2) **Search by Subject or Topic** link at the upper right search box area provides topics related to:
   - **News** (e.g., broadcast transcripts, foreign language news)
   - **Legal** (e.g., federal and state statutes and regulations, patent search, legal reference, Shepherds’s Citations)
   - **International Legal, Companies** (e.g., company profiles, SEC filings, market and industry reports), and
   - **People, Places and Things** (e.g. biographical, consumer, and country information; accounting, tax law, and Smart Phone Interface).
The search page changes to various search options depending on what topic you select. For example, selecting ‘Patent Search’ becomes an Advanced Search with fields necessary for identifying patents. ‘Canadian Cases’ takes you to a special search page.

3) **Advanced Options**: These options allow you to limit search results to a specific date or date range, or by source. You may also “Build Your Own Segment Search.” This means you may select a segment (which is similar to a record field) and then select from 5 connector buttons.
Types of searches (continued):

(Booleans operators) to narrow your search results. There are other standard Boolean operators to narrow your search results even more (see Boolean operators instructions on next page). For more information about segment searches, see http://tinyurl.com/n93y6yk

4) **Hot Topics Links** takes you to “Front Page News” for selected topics.

5) **Forms** makes it easy by providing selected fields to search:
   - **Search the News.** Search within specific newspapers (*The New York Times* or *The Guardian*), limit to a specific source type (newspapers, magazines, blogs, etc.), and search by topic.
   - **Look up a Legal Case.** Looking for a specific legal case or several dealing with a similar topic? Search by citation (347 U.S. 483), parties involved (*Roe v. Wade*), and by topic.
   - **Get Company Info.** Search for information on over 80 million companies by name (Amazon) or by ticket (AMZN).

Limits (Advanced Options search):

1) **Date:** Can select from pre-selected date ranges, or create specific ranges.

2) **Search By Content Type:** This search option allows you to limit your results to the following categories: News, Legal, International Legal, Companies, and People, Places, and Things.

3) **Source:** After entering your search terms and index terms, (see previous section), if any, you may also choose to limit your results to a certain source(s). You may choose to limit by *Type* or *Name*.
   * **Type** includes major world publications, all news (English), foreign language news, broadcast transcripts, industry news publications, company information, federal and state cases, or U.S. law reviews.
   * **Name** requires that you enter specific name within the search box, such as "*New York Times.*" If you do not know the precise name you can find or browse sources.

   Once you select to limit your results to a certain source(s), another box will appear below that allows you to add a section search. Adding a section search allows you to select a section within the document and to search for a term within that section. If you search for more than one term, you must select whether to use the connector "**AND**" or "**OR.**" For example, selecting "judges" as the section term and entering "Holmes" will return documents that have Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes within the section of the document for judges.

4) **Index Terms:** After entering your search terms with either natural language or Boolean operators, you may add index terms including those under company, industry, subject, geography, or people. Index terms are like subject headings. Developed by the personnel of LexisNexis, these words provide a classification of the general topic of the document. For example, you could click on company and type in "Chevron" and LexisNexis will search for all documents that contain the subject heading "Company" with "Chevron" somewhere within the document. This term will most likely be located within the results discussed above. However, because the number of results may be overwhelming it may be useful to limit your results by relevance or even chronologically. While one result may be more useful than another, it may not be as timely.

**Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT) and Proximity Operators:**

To limit results: use the connector **AND** to find articles with all terms (x AND y)
To broaden results: use **OR** to find articles with either term (x OR y)
To eliminate some terms: use **NOT** to find articles with one term but not the other (x NOT y)
To limit results further: use **WITHIN 5 WORDS OF, IN SAME SENTENCE AS, IN SAME PARAGRAPH AS**

Connectors have a an order of priority. That priority is listed below:

1. OR
2. W/N
3. PRE/N
4. NOT W/N
5. W/S
6. NOT W/S
7. W/P
8. NOT W/P
9. AND
10. AND NOT
Sometimes this order of priority can disrupt your intended search. For example, if you search for "assault w/5 battery OR aggravate w/5 battery," LexisNexis will search for "battery OR aggravate" first, since OR is processed before W/N. This was not the intended search. To correct this, place your search terms in parentheses. The correct search then looks like "(assault w/5 battery) OR (aggravate w/5 battery)."

For more Boolean operators and an explanation of Boolean searching within LexisNexis, visit the page https://www.lexisnexis.com/communities/academic/w/wiki/56.boolean-searching.aspx

### Truncation / Wildcard symbols

(*) replaces one or zero characters (judge* finds judges, judge, judged)

(!) truncates the end of a word and can add a number of letters to the end of the word string. The “!” must always come at the end of the search. LexisNexis is unable to process “noise words” such as “the,” “and,” “of,” etc. Note: LexisNexis automatically finds the plural forms of any search terms.

### Phrase searching

Use “quotation marks” around words to identify exact phrases (e.g. “health care”). Use “quotation marks” around a single word to identify exact spellings (for example, “color” to exclude results using “colour”).

### Results:

On the results page, you can search within results by entering keywords that can narrow down your results. There are option selections for how much record to show in the results list. Search terms are highlighted within each document. You can also sort your results chronologically or by relevance (default), newest to oldest, source order, and oldest to newest.

### Find full text:

All articles, cases, and other documents retrieved from LexisNexis can be shown as full-text. Simply click on the title of the document to retrieve its full-text version. The initial search result will be an abstract that gives a good overview and summary of the document.

### To save, print, e-mail, export, cite, or tag an abstract:

From both the search results page and document page, in the upper right corner you can click on a number of icons to print, download, email, or export bibliographic references. You may also print, save, and email case summaries and abstracts. You can also export a document by clicking “export bibliographic references” in the top right corner. You can export to EndNote, or display the bibliographic references in a new window. You can also “save to drop box” with your University of Illinois account. This allows you to save the references to a “cloud” and retrieve from any location where there is an internet connection. A cloud is a virtual space where documents can be saved and retrieved with an online location.

### Personalization:

**Search history:** You may view your search history so that you may not duplicate unsuccessful search terms.

**E-mail alerts:** You may receive alerts on:

- any research issue including legal, news, political, and more. You may determine the frequency with which you receive these alerts including daily, business daily, weekly, monthly, and even three times a day on really hot topics.
- Shepard’s updates on specific cases which will alert you on the validity of that case based on recent changes in the law. An additional important feature is CourtLink, which alerts users to new court filings.

To manage your alerts, click on View all alerts in the Alerts pod on the homepage, or from the More dropdown list on any page. Here, you can view, update, pause, and delete the alert.

### Help

**LexisNexis Database Help:** For more information, click on the Help link at the top right corner of any page. Or click on the “Tools” sidebar on the main search page to access the latest changes to LexisNexis, video tutorials, and research guides.

**LexisNexis Wiki Help Tips:** LexisNexis Academic also has a Help page with a number of tips and tricks. Visit the Help page here: [https://www.lexisnexis.com/communities/academic/w/wiki/41.academic-help-getting-started.aspx](https://www.lexisnexis.com/communities/academic/w/wiki/41.academic-help-getting-started.aspx)

**RSS feeds:** Subscribe to LexisNexis RSS feeds on various topics including all news, legal news, business news, risk news, and general news. Follow this link to subscribe to these feeds: [https://www.lexisnexis.com/rss/Default.aspx](https://www.lexisnexis.com/rss/Default.aspx)

**Lots of search power!** LexisNexis is a very sophisticated database with has lots of search capabilities. Do use their Help guides to check out the possibilities and utilize it to its fullest potential.

Ask a librarian! For more ‘Help’ contact Funk Library at 217-333-2416, OR just Ask A Librarian!