



USING LEXIS-NEXIS TO FIND LEGAL INFORMATION

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/dblexis.htm>

Lexis-Nexis contains full-text documents from 5,600 news, business, legal, medical and reference publications. Dates of coverage vary for each title included—and could be anywhere from the recent past to 20+years.

Select a research category

Click on **Quick Info**, **News**, **Business**, **Legal Research**, **Medical**, or **Reference** to begin your search. You must select one of these categories, and you can only search one category at a time. Your initial selection of a category will determine subsequent subcategory options.

Enter keyword

Enter text in each required field in order to retrieve results. You can enter a single term, a phrase, or combine terms (i.e. Cuba, Cuban refugees, Cuba and baseball). Since Lexis searches the full text and will not retrieve results if there are more than 1,000 matches, use specific words to describe your topic.

- **You do not need to enclose phrases within quotation marks.**
- **Hyphens, slashes, and parentheses within keywords are treated as blank spaces:** 401(k) = 401 k.
- Once you have results, you can narrow your search with additional terms.

Limit by date or publication

Use additional terms to limit your search to a specific source,

Example: **publication (new york times)**

To specify a day, select the date range option and enter the same date in both the **From** and **To** fields.

Example: **From: Aug 3, 1997 To: 08/03/97**

Source List

Click on **Source List** to search within a publication. You can type in a title or browse by letter. Select **search this title**. To find out what dates are included, select **about this title**. You can select up to 5 titles at one time.

Results

Results are sorted in chronological order with the most recent articles first. You can also sort by relevance.

Mark the citations for the articles you want, then click on the option to save, print or e-mail results to yourself.

Operator	Function	Example
OR	finds either or both search terms	doctor OR physician
W/n	finds words or phrases in the same document in any order	victim W/5 rights
AND	locates both search words anywhere in the document	affirmative action AND California
W/S	finds words which appear in the same sentence	sanction W/S frivolous
W/P	finds words which appear in the same paragraph	rule W/P sanction
PRE/n	finds words or phrases in the same document, with one appearing before the other	cable PRE/2 television OR tv OR t.v.
NOT W/n	requires the first search word to appear in the document; the second word can not appear within N words of the first	Rico NOT W/5 Puerto
AND NOT	excludes words or phrases from the results set	Jordon W/10 Syria AND NOT Michael w/3 Jordon
ATLEASTn	determines the minimum number of times the search term appears in a document	ATLEAST5 (budget)
*	replaces one character in middle of word	wom*n for women or woman
!	replaces one or more letters at the end of a word	negligen! for negligent, negligently or negligence
allcaps	word(s) must have all capital letters	allcaps (AIDS)
caps	word(s) must have one or more capital letters	caps (Law of the Land)
nocaps	word(s) must have no capital letters	nocaps (law)
plural	finds only the plural of a term	plural (williams)
singular	finds only the singular of a term	singular (william)
() = parentheses	used to group search terms	(bill w/3 clinton) OR (george w/3 bush)

The legal file within the Lexis-Nexis database is divided into several sub-files which **cannot** be searched simultaneously.

FILE NAME	CONTENTS	USES
Legal News (Part of Secondary Literature)	Articles from legal newspapers, magazines, and newsletters	When you need the most current information, as well as projections about possible court decisions
Law Reviews (Part of Secondary Literature)	Articles from law journals	When you need scholarly or historical overviews of a topic area
Get a Case (Part of Case Law)	Federal and state case law	When you know the parties to a case (Roe v. Wade), or you have a citation (407 U.S. 258)
Shepard's for U.S. Supreme Court (Part of Case Law)	Shepard's citations of U.S. Supreme court cases (U.S., S. Ct., L. Ed., L. Ed. 2d, or U.S. LEXIS)	"Shepardizing" is most helpful when you need to determine whether particular case law still stands & how cases refer to each other, or to check citations
Federal Case Law (Part of Case Law)	Supreme Court Decisions, Briefs, Previews; Court of Appeals; District Courts; Customs & Patent Appeals; Court of International Trade; Bankruptcy, Customs, Commerce, Military & Tax Courts; Court of Veterans Appeals	Only the Supreme Court Decisions, Court of Appeals, and District Court are comprehensive; all others are selective by date, or limit coverage to major cases
State Case Law (Part of Case Law)	All 50 states	Cannot search across states; materials available may vary by state
Area of Law by Topic (Part of Case Law)	Corporate, Criminal, Education, Environmental, Family, Health, Immigration, International, Public Health & Welfare law	Includes only selected cases – but is most helpful when you need to search across jurisdictions on a topic
Federal Code (Part of Codes & Regulations)	U.S. Code, Federal Court Rules, U.S. Constitution	Has a Guided Search option that allows searching of case notes, cite, current status, heading, and history
Federal Regulations (Part of Codes & Regulations)	Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Acquisition Regulations, US Attorney General Opinions	Has a Guided Search option that allows searching by cite and full-text
State Codes (Part of Codes & Regulations)	State codes, court rules, constitutions, Attorneys General's opinions, advance legislative service	Cannot search across states; materials available may vary by state
Tax Law (Part of Codes & Regulations)	Internal Revenue Code, all available federal tax law, tax opinions from state Attorneys General, advisory opinions from Department of Labor	Relies upon keyword searching – so it's best used when you are interested in a topical area (e.g., limited partnership)

Lexis-Nexis also includes the following files:

Canadian Legislative Materials
 EU Law (CELEX)
 Patents
 Manual (Patents)
 Law School Directories

Canadian Statutes & Regulations
 Commonwealth and Foreign Nations
 Class (Patents)
 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory
 Choosing a Law School