

LexisNexis Academic

What is it?

LexisNexis Academic is one of the most current, full-text databases covering news, business, legal, medical, and reference information. It is considered to be one of the best resources for federal, state, and international legal information, and provides full-text legal news, case law, codes & regulations, etc.

The basic default is the "Quick News" which is intended primarily for fast information, not research.

For research, use one of the Guided Forms below:

The Legal search form provides access to primary source material such as case law, statutes and regulations and secondary source materials such as legal news or law reviews which help develop the background or analysis of a legal or legislative topic.

The Business search form provides information from regional publications on companies and industries. The medical category includes popular health articles plus the professional medical database *Medline*.

The Medical search form includes both full-text and abstracts of medical information. The "Medical News" is written for the layman but covers complex issues with full-text in Medical & Health Journals. Abstracts from medical journals are from the Medline® database.

The News search form includes more than 350 newspapers from the U.S. and around the world in full-text, many same day of publication. Over 400 magazines and journals plus over 600 newsletters are also available, most in full-text. In fact, over 95% of this database is full-text.

How do I find it?

From the Library's homepage, use the Quick Links drop down menu and select "Electronic Resources – Alphabetic List" and then click "GO". Then select the letter "L" from the alphabetic list, and scroll down to "Lexis Nexis Academic Universe". Once there, you can select the search form (News (Quick Info), Business, Legal, Medical, and Reference) and begin searching. Below is the way to begin searching legal research. While each search form is unique (Business, Medical, Legal), the process is basically the same.

Legal Research

Select the "Legal Research" option to start your research. Choose the type of material you wish to search.

Type of Materials

Secondary Legal Literature (Articles)

Legal News: Articles from legal newspapers, magazines and newsletters.

Law Reviews: Articles from law reviews (journals) such as *University of Chicago Law Review*

Case Law

You can search by party name or citation (number) to find Federal & State legal cases. (Ex: Roe v. Wade OR 93 S. Ct. 705)

Federal Case Law: Allows the user to search by keyword for decisions from all federal court level cases. (I.E.: Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, Bankruptcy Courts, Tax Courts, Customs Courts, Military Courts, etc.)

State Case Law: Allows the user to search state court and appellate court decisions by choosing a particular state in which to search.

Shepard's™ for U.S. Supreme Court: Verifies the amount a case has been cited. "Shepardizing" helps an attorney determine if a case has been overturned or not. It also allows the user to find additional cases that stand for the same legal principle as the original case.

Area of Law by Topic: Search here by keyword in a particular field or topic of law such as Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, Environmental Law, Labor Law, Immigration Law, International Law, etc. Note: it is important to understand the correct legal terminology before using this search strategy.

Codes & Regulations

U.S Code: Search here for the U.S. Code, text of the U.S. Constitution and Federal court rules. The U.S. Code is the statutory code for the United States of America as published in the United States Code Service. It includes all *laws* enacted by the United States Congress. The Federal Court rules are the Federal Rules Annotated from the U.S. Code Service. The U.S. Constitution is the text of the Constitution from the U.S. Code Service.

Federal Regulations: Search here by keyword for Federal Regulations, agency opinions and U.S. Attorney General opinions. Includes the Federal Register, which is the official vehicle for making the regulations and legal notices issued by the federal agencies and departments available to the public. The Code of Federal Regulations or CFR is a codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations published originally in the Federal Register by executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

State Codes: Allows the user to search the State Code, text of the State Constitution, State Advance Legislative Service (all laws enacted during a legislative session), rules for all state courts and State Attorney General's opinions for a particular state.

BOOLEAN OPERATORS

Or - one or the other term must be mentioned in the text
"Kenneth Lay" or Enron

And not - use this with caution as it can eliminate relevant documents. Helpful to eliminate unwanted results.

Arthur Anderson and not Enron (will find results that contain mention of Arthur Anderson but only if they do not also mention Enron)

Truncation

Truncation symbols help to find varying forms of a term.

! is used at the end of a word to retrieve all endings.

For example: **child!** Retrieves *child* or *child's* or *children* or *childhood*.

* is used to replace just one letter anywhere in a word (except the first letter).
For example: **wom*n** Retrieves *woman* or women

Citing LexisNexis In Your Papers

1. Magazines & Newspapers

MLA lists the author's name, article title, magazine or newspaper title, publication data, publication medium (Online), name of the online service (LexisNexis® Academic), and date of accessing the site. Below are examples using *MLA* style.

1. Greenhouse, Linda. "Supreme Court Roundup: Race Statistics Do Not Support a Claim of Selective Prosecution, Justice Rule." *New York Times* May 13, 1996: 20. Online. LexisNexis® Academic. 14 May 1996.
2. Cole, David. "Where Skin Color Is a Crime" Texas Lawyer 12 August 1996: 21. Online. LexisNexis® Academic. 12 August 1996.

APA lists the author's name, date of publication, article title, magazine title, type of medium in brackets and Internet availability. Below are two examples using *APA* style.

1. Greenhouse, Linda. (1996, May 13). Supreme Court roundup: race statistics do not support a claim of selective prosecution, justice rule. *New York Times*, pp. 20. [Online]. Available: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe>.
2. Cole, David. (1996 August 12) Where Skin Color Is A Crime. Texas Lawyer, pp. 21. [Online]. Available: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe>.

2. Court Cases

MLA lists the case title, U.S. Reports citation, page numbers, docket number, name of the court, year of decision, Internet address, and date of accessing the site

1. United States v. Armstrong. 517 U.S. 456. 456-483. No. 95-157. US Supreme Court. 1996. Online. LexisNexis® Academic. (13 May 1996).

APA lists the case title, U.S. Reports citation, year of decision, and Internet address.

2. United States v. Armstrong, 517 U.S. 456 (1996) [Online] Available: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe>

3. U.S. Code

MLA lists the title number, statute book of the U.S. Code, section, year, publication medium, name of computer service, and date of access.

3. 42 US Code. Sec. 405. 1998. Online. LexisNexis® Academic. 5 August 1999.

For additional assistance, please see: <http://support.lexisnexis.com/academic/default.asp>