

DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY

<http://www.nps.edu/Library>
Lexis-Nexis: The Basics



The Dudley Knox Library provides access to the Lexis-Nexis database. With Lexis-Nexis, you can search for federal and state case law as well as articles from a huge variety of newspapers, news wires, congressional transcripts, TV and radio transcripts, magazines, journals, business publications and more. Most documents are provided full-text (ASCII text only, no graphics or tabular data).

(Lexis-Nexis has a related product, *Academic Universe*, also available on the Library's Databases page. It includes a limited number of resources which are also available in the full Lexis-Nexis product.)

These tips are designed to help you start using the web-based version of Lexis-Nexis. Additional information on searching is available from the Reference/Research Assistance Librarians and through the Lexis-Nexis help screens.

To access Lexis-Nexis on the web, go to either <http://www.nexis.com> or <http://www.lexis.com>. Most NPS users will use nexis.com, which is designed for searching journals, newspapers, magazines, and other "news" and media sources. lexis.com is designed for legal research.

Log in using the current ID and password, available from the Research Assistance Office. (Note that we are required to change the ID and password every quarter. *Use of these passwords is limited to NPS students, faculty and staff – please do not share with others.*)



TIP: Contact us for the current password by using the Ask A Librarian button: This button is found on nearly every library web page.

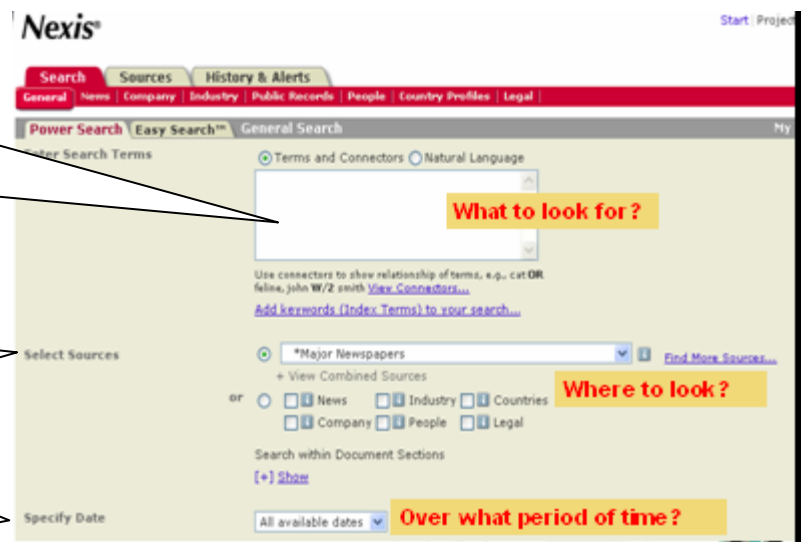
Searching Lexis-Nexis: Remember, Lexis-Nexis is a huge, full-text database. The default is to search words in the full-text of articles. It can be frustrating for first-time users to use it by experimentation, because it is easy to reach a "no documents found" screen, or "more than 3000 results" screen – neither will give you results.

TIP: To search Lexis-Nexis effectively, *think like a reporter:*

What: Lexis-nexis needs no quotes for exact phrases. Use AND to keep words in the same article, or w/s to keep words in the same sentence. Example: nuclear weapons will search the words as a phrase. nuclear w/s weapons will search those two words in the same sentence.

Where: Sources are publications. Choose your "sources" carefully. Click the "I" to see information about each

When: if it matters when the articles were written, choose a date that makes sense.



Search Forms in Lexis-Nexis:

Lexis-Nexis now offers the option of using forms for constructing searches for particular types of documents. The form for searching NEWS only, is show below:

Search Sources History & Alerts
General News Company Industry Public Records People Country Profiles Legal

News Make This My Start Page

Enter Search Terms

Anywhere in the document And

Anywhere in the document And

Anywhere in the document And

Add Index Terms
[+] Show

Select Sources
News, All (English, Full Text)
News

To select more than one source, hold the Ctrl key and click multiple items

Specify Date
Previous 3 months Jan 09 2007 To Apr 09 2007

Save This Search | Clear Form

TIP: For more focused results, you can search for your terms in just ONE part of the record.
Example: Choose HEADLINE if you want your terms to occur in the title of the article, for example.

Forms for Company, Industry, Public Records, People, Country Profiles and Legal are also provided. Each contains appropriate blanks for the types of documents searched.

SOURCES: Forms searches rely on the use of “prefabricated” groups of sources. If you would to specify a particular source to search, such as *New York Times* or *The Economist*, Go to the **Sources** tab and enter the title of the source you want to search.

GENERAL SEARCH TECHNIQUES:

Every search engine has its specific techniques. Here are a few that apply to Lexis-Nexis

CONNECTORS

AND
OR
AND NOT
w/x [within x number of significant words] Example:

nuclear w/3 submarine

“WILDCARDS”

* will replace any character(s) in a word.
Example: **wom*n** will retrieve articles mentioning either woman or women
!), will replace letters at the end of a word. Example: **terror!** will retrieve articles mentioning terrorists, terrorism, etc.

GENERAL TECHNIQUES

Lexis-Nexis does not use quotation marks for phrase searching.
Example: **biological terrorism** retrieves only articles that contain that exact phrase.

For more information about Lexis-Nexis, contact us:

Research Assistance Desk
Dudley Knox Library
(831) 656-2485
refdesk@nps.edu
<http://www.nps.edu/Library/index.html>