

# Finding Legal Articles on LexisNexis Academic

## “Cheat Sheet”

This is an overview of using LexisNexis Academic for finding articles from law reviews/legal journals. To learn about features not discussed here, and for help and advice specific to your research, call 415.422-6773 or contact a research librarian via <http://legalresearch.usfca.edu/FindResearchHelp>.

### **Coverage and Content**

Since 1995, LexisNexis Academic has covered most law reviews and almost all of their articles. Between 1982 and 1995, LexisNexis Academic covers some articles from some law reviews. If you want to find articles written before 1995, we recommend that you also use: HeinOnline’s “Law Journals Library”; LegalTrac; and/or Index to Legal Periodicals.

### **Access**

LEXISNEXIS Academic is available to researchers using USF campus libraries, and to current, non-law USF students, faculty, and staff using remote logins.

### **Logging-in & Limiting Your Search to Articles**

Go to <https://www.usfca.edu/library/lexisnexis> and select the “Connect to this Database” link. (Follow the “Off-Campus Access” instructions if you are logging in from off campus.)

Once you’ve logged on to LexisNexis Academic, select “Advanced Options” (just below the search box), then select only “Law Reviews” as your “Content Type.”

### **Search Options**

The default search box runs a plain language / natural language search

You can also use operators like **AND**, and **OR**, or proximity operators (*e.g.*, **w/25** or **w/p**) to create “terms & connectors” (Boolean) searches. And you can create what Lexis calls “Segment” searches to retrieve articles when you know the title or author of the article, the title of the journal, or the exact article citation.

Once you run any search, you can also use the “Search within results” text box at the top right-hand side of the results screen to refine your initial search results.

### **Display of Results**

Your search results are displayed 25 citations at a time. You can use the “Sort” menu to choose whether to sort your results in relevance order or in date order.

There are five display options:

- List (the default display)—Shows the title, date, author and citation of the articles.
- Expanded List—A list that also shows your search terms with the words immediately surrounding them.
- Full Document (and “Full with Indexing”) —Shows the entire text of an article.
- Custom—Lets you pick what portions of each article to display.
- KWIC (Key Words In Context)—Shows your search terms in the context of the sentences or paragraphs they are in. This display option shows only one article at a time.

### **Printing, E-mailing, Downloading, Cloud Storage**

To print one or more articles, switch to the “List” view, mark the desired articles, then select the Print, Email, Download, or Send to Cloud icon. In the next window, choose “Full Document” under “Document View.” (“Send to Cloud” lets you store documents to Dropbox or Google Drive.)

To print selected *citations*, tag the citations you want, then select Print, Email, Download, or Send to Cloud. In the next window, select “List” or “Expanded List” from the “Document View” pull-down menu.

## **Limiting by Date**

Select “Advanced Options” (just below the search box), then use the “Date” options to set a date range.

## **Specific Searches Useful for Legal Research**

### **Natural Language Search**

This is the default. Just enter your search terms in the search box, *e.g.*,  
digital music copyright infringement

### **Terms & Connectors Key Word Search**

In the search box, enter your search using the operators **AND**, and **OR**, or the proximity operators, *e.g.*,  
"enemy combatant" w/p terror! — or — "casino gambling" and nevada — or —  
mafia or "organized crime" w/25 teamsters

Use **!** to retrieve all forms of a word (*e.g.*, **harass!**). (Regular plurals are retrieved automatically.)

For proximity, use **w/p** to find words in the same paragraph, and use **w/25** (or other number) to find words separated by a certain number of other words.

### **Title Search**

In the search box, enter a search modeled on this example:

title("taming congress's power under the commerce clause")

(Note that this search may also retrieve articles that cite to your article.)

### **Author Search**

In the search box, enter a search modeled on these examples:

author(mary pre/3 whisner) — or — author(lawrence pre/3 tribe) — or — author(richard pre/3 posner)

(Note that this search may also retrieve articles that include a footnote thanking your author.)

### **Case Name Search**

In the search box, enter a search modeled on these examples:

lochner — or — "ex parte quirin" — or — "roe v. wade"

To narrow your results, ask to retrieve only articles that use the case name at least a certain number of times. Format your search like this:

atleast3(lochner) — or — atleast5("ex parte quirin") — or — atleast10("roe v. wade")

### **Statute Search**

In the search box, enter a search modeled on these examples. Use “atleast” to pare down your results.

"digital millennium copyright act" — or — 42 u.s.c. pre/2 1983 — or — atleast5("title vii")

You can also pare down your results by adding other relevant terms to your search, *e.g.*,

42 u.s.c. pre/2 1983 and "malicious prosecution"

### **Limiting by Jurisdiction**

Searching for articles about specific jurisdictions (*e.g.*, states or countries) is not effective on LEXISNEXIS Academic. If possible, use *Index to Legal Periodicals* or LegalTrac.