

LexisNexis® Academic

LEGAL INFORMATION SEARCH

ACCESSING LEXISNEXIS:

Access is available via the link below and clicking on the LexisNexis link in the table.

www.stfrancis.edu/lib/name.htm

Full texts articles are available with varying coverage and start dates in LexisNexis. Most are full text in HTML and are not available as PDF's.

For more information on how to better use the database, LexisNexis has a listing of several tutorials on its search page. Also check the library webpage for library made tutorials on many of the various resources.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE:

Lexis Nexis is a multidisciplinary database with an emphasis on business and law. In addition to having published articles and news reports, legal cases, business and SEC reports and a people search is available through this database. This handout will cover how to use the legal search feature. Additional handouts are available for the other coverage areas.

There are several search options in the legal search page, all with their own interface. The two most common, explained below are the law review and the federal and state cases search pages. Understanding the basics of these two search interfaces will allow you to carry out a successful search in the other interfaces.

LAW REVIEW SEARCH

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Academic interface for Law Reviews. The top navigation bar includes 'Search' and 'Sources', with sub-tabs for 'General', 'News', 'Legal', 'Business', and 'People'. The 'Legal' tab is selected, leading to the 'Law Reviews' section. A sidebar on the left lists various legal categories: Federal & State Cases, Shepard's® Citations, Federal & State Codes, Tax Law, Canadian Court Cases, Canadian Legislation, European Union, Commonwealth & Foreign Nations, Patents, and 'How do I...?' with a link to 'Use law reviews as a guide to finding important legal cases?'. The main search area is titled 'Terms & Conditions - Use of this service is subject to Terms & Conditions'. It features a search terms input field with 'Google|' entered, a 'Search' button, and radio buttons for 'Terms and Connectors' (selected) and 'Natural Language'. A callout box points to the 'Natural Language' option, stating: 'Natural language allows you to enter terms as you would speak them, for example: What lawsuits is Google in?'. Below the search terms field, there are instructions on using connectors and a link to 'Tips for using search connectors'. The 'Sources' dropdown is set to 'US Law Reviews and Journals, Combined'. A callout box points to the 'Natural Language' option and the search terms field, stating: 'Uses keyword or Boolean searches.'. Below the sources dropdown, there is a link to 'Show options to search specific document sections'. Further down, there are input fields for 'Title of Article', 'Title of Journal', 'Author', 'Article citation', and 'Specify date' (set to 'All available dates'). A 'Citation help' link is also present. A callout box points to the sidebar categories, stating: 'Other search options.'.

The results of the law review search will look the same as a general lexis nexis article search. This is why they are not highlighted in this handout.

