

Online Exercise #4: Lexis-Nexis

For each of the following, do online searches and record your file choices, search strategies, output choices, and results (if short enough) in the spaces provided. Don't try to force your answers into these spaces. Reformat the exercise to give yourself some room. Use Nexis.com as your interface. Don't try to do these problems in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe. Make use of available Lexis-Nexis system features and the links in Nexis.com.

1. Search the full News group file from 2002 to the present. Use proximity operators to identify the locations of hotels where ducks walk on red carpet. When did the hotel in Little Rock debut its ducks? (Hint: Use FOCUS—search within these results for this last question.)
 - a. File choice and how you found it:
ALLNWS
Source directory: News: Combined sources: News, All (English, Full Text)
 - b. Search Strategy and number of results:

hotel AND (ducks w/10 walk) AND "red carpet"
15 results
 - c. Names and cities for the hotel:
Peabody hotel, Memphis
Mandarin Oriental Majapahit, Surabaya
Peabody hotel, Orlando
Peabody hotel, Little Rock
 - d. Little Rock hotel search strategy:

"Little Rock" AND debut
 - e. Debut date for the ducks:

Feb. 1, 2002

2. Have there been any state or federal court cases concerning drug use as a religious freedom? Do your search in a file that includes only the major newspapers. I don't want to see any searches like this: DRUG USE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND COURT CASE. Use FOCUS to find only those documents that mention peyote. Find a good document and use the "More Like This" command to improve your search. One 1990 document you may find is for an Oregon case involving the parties: Employment Division and Alfred Smith. Go the Oregon State Cases file and retrieve this case in two ways: first, by searching the proper segment for the parties in the case; and second, by searching the segment for the citation in a court reporter. The citation was 310 Ore 376. (Hint: click on the i (for information) in your file to find the names of the searchable segments.)
 - a. First File Choice:
MAJPAP
 - b. Search strategies and number of results before and after searching on peyote:
HLEAD (drug and religious and federal or state and law) and ceremony
29 results
20 results with "peyote"

- c. Did the More Like This command improve your results. If so, in what specific ways were they better? If not, why do you think the command was not useful?
The More Like This command reduced the number of results to 25, but many of the documents were about court cases regarding religion but not the right to use drugs. Also, the case I chose was a Supreme Court case, and all the documents in the More Like This set dealt with the Supreme Court; there were no state court cases. I tried a different article from the original set, and the documents returned with the More Like This link were more on target.
 - d. File name for the Oregon case:
ORCTS
 - e. Search strategy for the case, searching on the parties:
Full-name (Employment and Smith)
 - f. Search strategy for the case, searching on the citation:
Cite (310 Ore 376)
 3. Search the individual file: "Celebrity Bios" to find information on the actress Cybil Shepherd. In which year did she start appearing in the TV show "Moonlighting". Use a specific segment to find other actors and actresses who appeared on the show.
 - a. File choice and the method you used to find it:
CELBIO
I did a search for "celebrity" in the "locate source" section
 - b. Search strategy to find information on Cybil Shepherd and year of the first show:
Search for Cybill Shepherd, and then a focus search for Moonlighting; show first aired in 1984
 - c. Search strategy to find the other actors and actresses:
MILESTONES (moonlighting)
 - d. Names of those performers:
Bruce Willis; Curtis Armstrong; Jenny Seagrove; Eva Marie Saint; Dennis Dugan; Virginia Madsen; Markie Post; Mark Harmon (CST); Justin Theroux; Jeffrey De Munn; Charles Rocket; Barry Fitzgerald
4. Find documents in the past year from the Marketing News group file on the company Monsanto's activities with genetically engineered food. Don't use the file called "Marketing News TM." Formulate a broad search on the concept of genetically engineered food by doing a "quick and dirty search" and checking useful terms in the "Add index terms to your search" link. Don't necessarily limit yourself just to the subject segment. Consider searching these terms throughout the records. In the Monsanto part of the search, try three different techniques to improve precision: 1) Search in just headlines and lead paragraphs; 2) Search within the Terms segment; 3) Search for at least three mentions of the company name in each document.
 - a. Broad search strategy (not your quick and dirty search) and number of results:
Engineered Crops AND Genetically-Modified Food AND Crop Research AND Agricultural Biotechnology
237 results
 - b. Strategy and number of results for 1) above:

HLEAD(Monsanto) AND Engineered Crops AND Genetically-Modified Food AND Crop Research AND Agricultural Biotechnology
19 results

- c. Strategy and number of results for 2) above:
TERMS(Monsanto) AND Engineered Crops AND Genetically-Modified Food AND Crop Research AND Agricultural Biotechnology
9 results
- d. Strategy and number of results for 3) above:
ATLEAST3(Monsanto) AND Engineered Crops AND Genetically-Modified Food AND Crop Research AND Agricultural Biotechnology
27 results
- e. Which of 1-3 worked the best for recall and precision? Would you consider combining them in some way? Why or why not and how would you do it if you decided it was a good idea?
The first two were too narrow; high precision but too little recall. The third set is not too large, and since the third strategy finds hits in the lead paragraphs, headlines, and terms as well as the rest of the document, I wouldn't combine the techniques for this search.
5. Do a search on a subject of interest to you. Choose something that could be searched successfully in Lexis-Nexis. Remember their strengths are general and business news, case law, public records, and a wide variety of source types: newsletters, transcripts, directory listings, and reports. Use a variety of commands and features: adjacency operators, field (segment) restrictions, Boolean and relevance ranking techniques, and output choices. In your answer, describe your topic clearly, summarize your file choices and reasons for choosing, search strategies, and output. Try your search in one Onesearch category in Dialog. Evaluate your success with both systems and indicate which was better and why.

How does the public view stem cell research in Europe and the UK?

File EURPUB; a file with all major European publications published in English.

SUBJECT("Stem Cell Research") AND SUBJECT("Bioethics") AND SUBJECT("Biotechnology & Genetic Science") limited to the last 5 years.
154 articles. Several duplicate articles; some articles from the U.S.; most articles were relevant.

HLEAD(Stem Cell) AND embryo AND SUBJECT("Bioethics") AND SUBJECT("Biotechnology & Genetic Science") limited to the last 5 years.
331 articles. Again, several duplicate articles, and a number of articles from the U.S.; most articles were relevant.

HLEAD(Stem Cell) AND ATLEAST5(embryo) AND SUBJECT("Bioethics") AND SUBJECT("Biotechnology & Genetic Science") limited to the last 5 years.
136 articles. The first few pages of results were similar to the other two searches; some duplicate articles, and a number of articles from the U.S., but most were relevant.

"stem cell" w/s research and atleast5(embryo) AND SUBJECT("Bioethics")
303 articles. The types of articles on the first few pages were not significantly different than the other searches.

Dialog Onesearch
Category: BIOBUS

S STEM(W)CELL AND ETHIC? ? AND EMBRYO

911 results. Many of the first 10 were from the United States, so I tried

S S1 NOT UNITED(W)STATES

486 results. Most of the first 10 results were relevant, and from countries other than the United States.

Dialog has fewer duplicate records, and the majority of the documents had region labels, which meant I could eliminate most of the ones for the United States and narrow it down to the international ones. I couldn't see a way to do this in Lexis-Nexis, since I didn't find consistent region labels. The Dialog records had more emphasis on scientific papers while the Lexis-Nexis was news and journal articles. Since I was looking for public opinion, the Lexis-Nexis results were more useful than the Dialog results, although the two search systems both gave useful results.