

Finding Court Opinions on LexisNexis Academic

Sociology 374, October 17, 2008

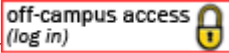
Cheryl Nyberg, Gallagher Law Library

The court opinions on LexisNexis are the written decisions of judges (or panels of judges) in appellate court cases. They are not trial transcripts.

Follow these steps:

1. Open LexisNexis Academic
2. Search
3. Select a case

Each of these steps has several parts. Use these step-by-step instructions:

1. Open LexisNexis Academic
 - a. Visit the [UW Libraries website](#)
 - b. If you are computing from home, click on the Off-Campus Access link  and sign in with your UW NetID
 - c. Under Find It, click on [Subject Guides](#)
 - d. Scroll down and click on [Law](#) near the end of the center column
 - e. Scroll down to the Finding Court Opinions header and click on LexisNexis Academic
2. Search
 - a. Check the top navigation bar to make sure that you are in the Legal tab
 - b. Check the left navigation bar to make sure that you in Federal & State Cases
 - c. At Search Terms, select the Natural Language option
 - d. At Sources, use the pull-down option to choose either
 - i. U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Lawyers' Edition OR
 - ii. U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases, Combined
 - e. In the Search Terms box, type in words or phrases like you would in Google
 - f. At Specify Date, use the pull-down option to limit by date (optional)
 - g. Click on the red Search button
 - h. On the list of search results, check the Sort box to make sure that Relevance appears. If Sort says Publication Date or Chronological, use the pull-down option to select Relevance
3. Select a case
 - a. Click on the title of a case (in blue) to retrieve the opinion
 - b. The document opens to the part of the opinion where one of your search terms first appears
 - c. Scroll to the top of the opinion
 - d. The name of the court that decided the case is below the complete name of the case
 - e. The Case Summary (grey boxes), Core Terms, and LexisNexis Headnotes are NOT part of the official court opinion; do not quote from these sections
 - f. Icons for printing, emailing, and downloading the opinion (and for exporting the citation to RefWorks) are on the right side of the beige bar

Questions? Problems? Contact the Law Library Reference Office, 543-6794 or lawrefst@u.washington.edu