

# 2017 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit

Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section  
American Association of Law Libraries

## Legal Research on LexisNexis Academic

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This handout is targeted for non-law students. Often non-law graduate and undergraduate students do not have access to Westlaw and Lexis Advance, but the institution offers LexisNexis Academic. Academic offers primary legal sources, a select few secondary legal sources, and a number of sources for news and business. This handout contains a basic description of primary and secondary sources and where to find them on Academic, a table of some recommended terms, connectors, and segment searches, and links to more in-depth research guides.

To view the entire kit, please visit <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/rips/teachin/2017.html>

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## Secondary Sources: Legal Encyclopedias & Law Review Articles

Source	Description	Where to Find
American Jurisprudence 2d	A legal encyclopedia, a good place to begin your research.	Legal Reference
Journals and Law Reviews	Scholarly articles on various legal topics	Law Reviews

## Three Branches of Government, Three Types of Law

Legislative Branch	Executive Branch	Judicial Branch
The Legislative Branch, Congress, creates <b>statutes</b> .	The Executive Branch, Federal Agencies, create <b>regulations</b> . Regulations detail the process of administering and enforcing statutes.	The Judicial Branch, the Court System, creates <b>case law</b> . Cases interpret statutes and regulations, or create law in the absence of them.
Statutes are organized by topic and kept up to date in the <b>United States Code</b> .	Regulations are organized by topic and kept up to date in the <b>Code of Federal Regulations</b> .	Case law does not have a central organizational structure and must be updated using a citator like <b>Shepard's</b> .
May be searched on LexisNexis Academic under the <b>Federal Statutes and Regulations Search</b> option in the Search by Subject or Topic menu. The codes may also be browsed by opening the Advanced Options menu and clicking on any underlined source.		May be searched on LexisNexis Academic under the <b>Federal and State Cases</b> option in the Search by Subject or Topic menu.

## Advanced Searching Options

Name	Connector	Purpose
Proximity Connector	w/#	Searches for two terms within the specified number of words of one another.
Exact Phrase	""	Searches for the exact phrase contained within the quotation marks.
At Least Command	atleast#( )	The word or phrase within the parentheses must show up at least the specified number of times in your search result.
Root Expander	!	Finds different versions of a word. Discrim! will find discriminate, discriminating, discrimination, discriminatory, etc.
Segment Searching	SEGMENT( )	Limits search to certain parts of a document. For cases consider searching HEADNOTES( ) or SUMMARY( ). For statutes, UNANNO( ) will search only within the text of the statute itself.

**LAW LIBRARY RESEARCH GUIDE ON LEXISNEXIS ACADEMIC:**

<http://law.indiana.libguides.com/c.php?g=157668>

**LAW LIBRARY RESEARCH GUIDE ON FINDING THE LAW BASICS:**

<http://law.indiana.libguides.com/c.php?g=1644&p=5392>

# The Law-Making Process

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Three Branches of Government, Three Types of Law

Legislative Branch (Congress): Statutes

The Law-Making Process	Type of Document	Databases to Use
Members of Congress propose bills.	Proposed bills	ProQuest Congressional, Congress.gov
Bills typically go through congressional committees for study.	Committee reports, hearings	ProQuest Congressional
The Congressional Research Service may issue a report on the bill.	CRS Reports	ProQuest Congressional
The bill must pass both the Senate and the House of Representatives before becoming a public law, or act.	Acts	ProQuest Congressional, FDSys.gov, Congress.gov
The act is <b>codified</b> (organized by topic), into statutes. The federal statutes are the <b>United States Code</b> .	Statutes	LexisNexis Academic, FDSys.gov

## The Executive Branch (Federal Agencies): Regulations

The Law-Making Process	Type of Document	Databases to Use
A statute gives a federal agency the power to create regulations.	Statutes	LexisNexis Academic, FDSys.gov
Agency publishes proposed regulations, asks for comment.	Proposed Regulations in the Federal Register	FDSys.gov, Regulations.gov
Agency may published amended proposed regulations.	Proposed Regulations in the Federal Register	FDSys.gov, Regulations.gov
Agency publishes final regulations.	Final Regulations in the Federal Register	FDSys.gov
Final regulations are codified into the <b>Code of Federal Regulations</b> .	Code of Federal Regulations	LexisNexis Academic, FDSys.gov

## The Judicial Branch (The Court System): Case Law

The Law-Making Process	Type of Document	Databases to Use
Trial Court	No legal documents are created. For accounts, try newspapers of the time.	LexisNexis Academic, ProQuest Historical Newspapers, Newspaper ARCHIVE
Appeals Courts preparation	Briefs for each party and friends of the court	Court websites, where available.
Appeals Courts	Judge written opinions, or cases.	LexisNexis Academic, Google Scholar
Updating	Shepard's reports tell you if a case is still good law.	LexisNexis Academic