

Legal Research III: Commercial Online Sources

Get Acquainted, logged in and configured

1. Set up Maryland tab
2. Set up preferences—everything checked—attention to TOC option and PDF option

What is Lexis?

1. Not a database but a platform to search hundreds of databases
2. Lexis databases
 - a. Generally by publication Maryland Code, COMAR, Maryland Law Review
 - b. Groups of publications: MD Cases Combined = Md. Reports and Md. App Reports
3. Databases can be searched or explored by:
 - a. Keyword or Terms and Connectors searching
 - b. Drill down by topic or Headnote or table of contents

Navigating Lexis

TOP TABS

1. Search Tab
 - a. Search by Source-Linked to a “Look for a Source” Tab
 - b. Search by Topic or Headnote (Lexis version of Keywords)
2. Get a Document
 - a. By Citation
 - b. By Party
3. Shepard’s
4. New Lexis

SOURCE TABS

A. Maryland Tab

1. Go over categories
 - a. Find Cases
 - b. Find Statutes
 - c. Jury Instructions
 - d. CLE—Continuing Legal Education = Secondary Sources—treatises and books
 - e. Law Reviews
 - f. News
2. Breadcrumbs
3. Check boxes used to search more than one source
4. To search a database click on the name
5. Some databases—Codes, rules, regs, and treatises have a TOC option
Md. Commercial Law Code Ann. § 14-3002
6. Use the “i” to find what is included in a database

B. Legal Tab

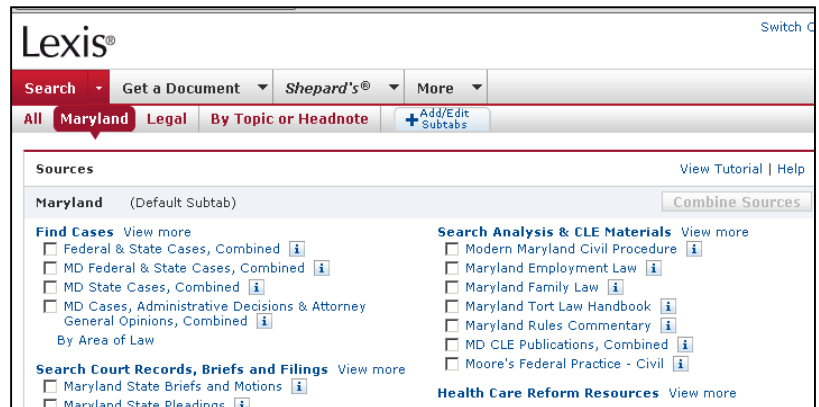
1. Federal Law
2. Secondary Sources—Am Jur and ALRs

C. Find a Source

1. Wonderful tool to see what is available
2. Best searched, browsing list is very long

Maryland

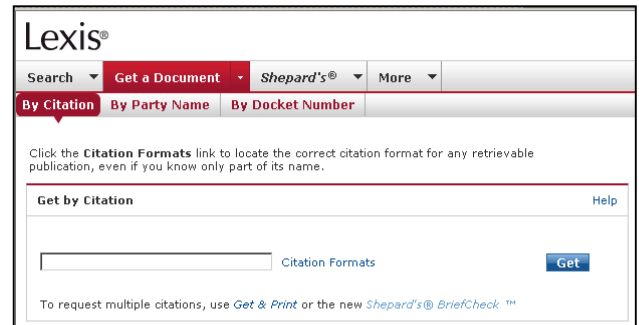
Exercise 1-- What’s in Lexis



Get a Document, Reading a Case, and Shepard's

1. Get a Document
 - a. By case citation **372 U.S. 335**
 - b. Party Name **Gideon**
2. Lots of info—some actually the “opinion”
 - a. Left Side Bar—Secondary and Table of Contents
 - b. Unofficial “Lexis” material is in brown
 - c. Overview of case organization
 - d. Printing, saving, emailing
3. Shepard's Report—Color Coding
 - a. Case Law
 - b. Statutes **Md. Code Ann., Com. Law 14-3002**

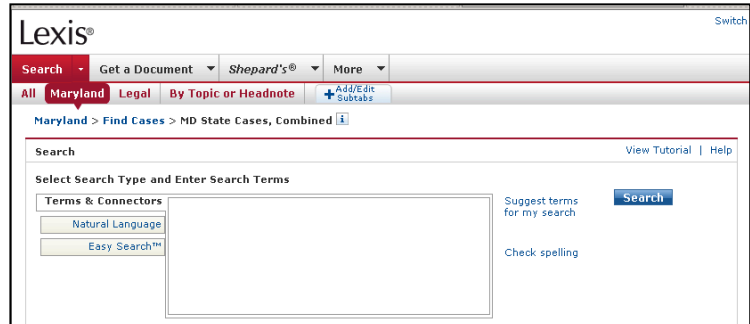
Exercise 2 -- Finding a Case and Using Shepard's



Searching Terms and Connectors

1. Review of Boolean operators, terms and connectors, segment searching
Handouts—Handy Search Form and Terms and Connectors Sheet
2. Review how to construct a search
3. Best done on paper first then try in database

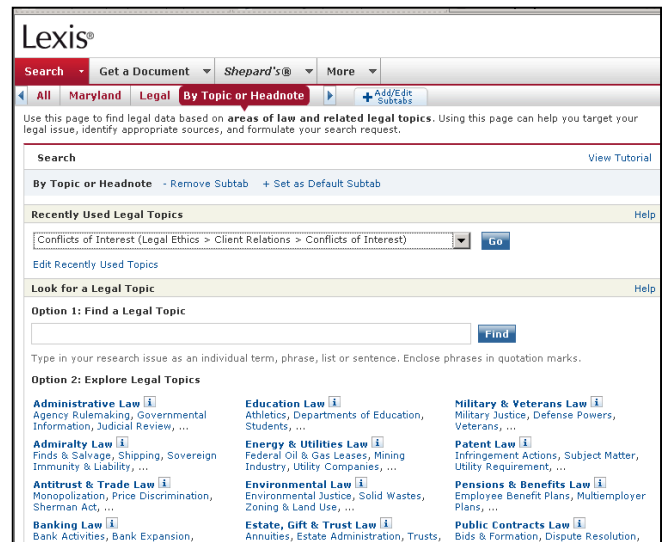
Exercise 3a: Case Law Questions



Searching By Topic and Headnote

1. Organized by Area of Law and then topics and subtopics
Civil Procedure > Jurisdiction > Personal Jurisdiction > In Personam Actions Long-Arm Jurisdiction
2. Search for a topic--**Email**

Exercise 3b: Case Law Questions



Searching is an Art

1. Don't forget secondary sources
 - a. AmJur
 - b. ALRs
 - c. Treatises
2. Know your goal
 - a. A specific case
 - b. Cases about a topic
 - c. Is the law still "good"
 - d. Background information
3. Consider your question
 - a. Location/jurisdiction
 - b. Area of law
 - c. Topic within that area
4. Develop a repertoire of techniques
 - a. Keyword searches
 - b. Terms and connectors
 - c. Table of Contents
 - d. Headnote—Top down
 - e. Combination
5. Power of Lexis—Ability to search across databases

The screenshot shows the Lexis search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the Lexis logo. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs: 'All', 'Maryland', 'Legal', and 'By Topic or Headnote'. The 'Legal' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'Sources' and 'Secondary Legal'. It lists various legal sources with checkboxes and links. The sources are organized into columns. The first column includes: Combined ALI-ABA Course of Study Materials, Combined CLE sources, Bar Journals, Combined Legal Newsletters, Combined Restatement Rules, Jurisprudences and Law Reviews, Law Reviews, CLE, Legal Journals & Periodicals, Combined US & Canadian Law Reviews, Combined Canadian Law Reviews, US Law Reviews and Journals, Combined Martindale-Hubbell(R) Listings, All, Martindale-Hubbell Legal Articles, American Jurisprudence 2d, American Law Reports (ALR), US Supreme Court Lawyers' Edition 2d Annotations, Jurisprudences & Encyclopedias, Combined Martindale-Hubbell(R) Law Digest, Restatement Rules, Combined, and Restatement Annotated Case Citations, Combined. The second column lists: Matthew Bender(R), Martindale-Hubbell(R) Law Directory Listings, Annotations & Indexes, Area of Law Treatises, Bar Journals, CLE Materials, Jurisprudences, ALR & Encyclopedias, Law Reviews & Journals, Model Acts & Uniform Laws, Jurisprudences, Restatements and Principles of the Law, Individual ALI-ABA Materials, American Bar Association (ABA), John Wiley, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Practising Law Institute, Tax Analysts, Forms & Agreements, and Colorado Bar Association. There is a 'Combine Sources' button at the top right of the list.

Exercise 4: Searching Across Databases

Other Commercial Sources

Blue Book is now online

<http://legalbluebook.com>

HeinOnline

1. Composition
 - a. Primary for materials that are not copyrighted (federal) and out of copyright
 - b. Like Lexis Hein has number of databases
 - c. Unlike Lexis, results are scans of the original files
 - d. Cannot search across databases
2. Interface
 - Tabs at the top—Resources, Search, Citation, Title
 - Breadcrumb Trail
3. Highlights
 - a. Federal Government Materials
 - Statutes at Large
 - United States Code
 - Code of Federal Regulations
 - b. Session Laws
 - All of Maryland

Index to Legal Periodicals and Books

1. Single database just to search for periodicals
2. Use when you need a very fine-tuned and comprehensive search

Topical Databases

1. RIA Checkpoint—Estate Planning
2. BNA and CHH Tax Management

Apps!

1. Black's Law
2. Lexis—Case finder and Shepard's
3. FastCase—FREE with Maryland Code
4. Oyez

Start	End	Topic or Exercise
9:00	9:30	Get Acquainted, Setting Up Lexis, Intro to Commercial Databases
9:30	10:00	Introduction to Lexis
10:00	10:30	Intro EXERCISE 1
10:30	10:45	Break
10:45	11:15	Get a Document and Shepard's
11:15	11:45	Get a Document and Shepard's EXERCISE 2
11:45	12:15	Review of Terms and Connectors
12:15	12:45	Lunch
12:45	1:15	Construct and Execute Terms and Connectors Searches
1:15	1:45	Terms and Connectors Search EXERCISES 3a
1:45	2:00	Break
2:00	2:15	Overview of Searching via Headnotes
2:15	2:45	Headnote Searching EXERCISE 3b
2:45	3:00	Break
3:00	3:15	The Art of Searching
3:15	3:45	Searching Across Databases Exercise 4
3:45	4:00	Other Commercial Sources