Start Your Research: Keyword Basics, Lexis+, video (6:24)

Subject

Crafting and refining keyword searching.

Learning Objectives

1. Be able to craft a natural language or keyword search. 2. Be able to select content type, jurisdiction, practice area, and timeline filters to narrow post-search results. 3. Be able to search within search results to refine post-search results. 4. Be able to prefilter search by content type and jurisdiction from the search bar.

Features Identified on a Platform [Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg, etc.]

Keyword searching (without needing word variants) based on a basic assault claim with a few key facts that are added to the keywords. Narrowing of the search by content type, jurisdiction, practice area, and timeline filters, and searching withing search results. Prefilter searching using just content type and jurisdiction.

Level of Difficulty: [0-4, 4 being the highest.]

1

Interactivity [0-4, with 4 being the highest.] Is it sufficient?

1 - sufficient for its purposes

Transferability to Print

Yes, identifying key words in a matter is a skill that may be help search indexes and digests for appropriate cases. “Filtering” in advance, by selecting digests in the appropriate jurisdiction and time frame is also possible.

Use of Relevant Examples

The problem presented assault from behind by an angry neighbor over events on a property line, and with some provocation. It is a realistic scenario that works well with the search examples. The problem offered just enough detail to enable a short natural language problem with the need to filter.

Level of Detail

The level of detail included explanations that there was no need to include variations of terms used in the search since natural language accounts for this.
In addition, the problem in the tutorial brought in the issue of “provocation” to include with the facts on assault.

**Relevance to Students**

The relevance to students should be easily identifiable as they see how early iterations of the search produce too many results and that by filtering and searching within results, they may narrow their results to a manageable number of cases in their jurisdiction and in a recent time frame.

**Appropriate Terminology**

The terminology centered around natural language searching and the assault case used to illustrate natural language searching. It was at an appropriate level for 1ls.

**The Graphics**

The graphics of the presentation are simple and cartoonish, but not so much as to distract from the presentation. They facilitate the illustration of natural language searching on the Lexis+ platform and a real-life scenario with which students may face.

**Length of the Video**

The length of the video (6:24) was perfect to cover the research features of the Lexis+ platform and use a problem for illustration.

**Marketing the Product Versus Teaching**

The ease of Lexis+ filtering and use of natural language terms (without having to account for word variations) was readily apparent and appropriate.

**Reviewers Comments**

The tutorial was the right length, with just enough depth, to be useful in teaching natural language searching on Lexis+ and post and pre-search filtering. It would be useful in the first class on learning to use the platform to solve a real research problem. Post tutorial discussion could highlight that there was no need to account for word variations, which may be an advantage over some terms & connectors searching (yet to be introduced). It could also emphasize the importance of jurisdiction and the utility of timeline searching.

**Reviewer**

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