



LexisNexis[®] Academic URL API Specification

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Specification

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Revisions: Error Messages Section and Appendix 1 (Federated Searching) added 9/15/06.AM

The LexisNexis *Academic* URL API specification will allow authorized users to construct URLs that run precise searches in the LexisNexis *Academic* service in order to link to a specific document. Use of this specification is subject to the Terms and Conditions on the previous page.

All URLs must be in the following format:

`http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi={csi_number}&sr={search_ terms}`

There are 2 parameters for which values must be entered.

- CSI is the unique number that represents a source. To find the CSI number for a source, refer to the A-Z Title List posted at www.lexisnexis.com/academicmigration
- The search terms can be any valid search syntax for the LexisNexis search engine, including date restrictions. You can limit your search to specific sections of a document such as headline (for news materials) or title (for law review articles). Go to http://support.lexisnexis.com/academic/record.asp?ArticleID=GS_Boolean for details on the LexisNexis search syntax. Date restrictions come in many forms. Here are examples of supported date formats:
 - date >= March 24,1995
 - date <= March 23, 1999
 - date > 07/01/1995
 - date < 08/05/2003
 - date = 1999
 - date is 12/1999
 - currdate -7 (Note: this example will find documents 7 days from the current date. Any number can be used.)
 - date > 1973 and date < 2003

Here is a sample URL that combines a search of the “headline” segment with a date restriction. The CSI 6742 is for *The New York Times*.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=6742&sr=headline\(Spending on Technology Lifts Cisco's Profit\) and date is August 9, 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=6742&sr=headline(Spending on Technology Lifts Cisco's Profit) and date is August 9, 2006)

Testing and Trouble Shooting

Validating Queries

The same search logic is used within the LexisNexis *Academic* service as in the URL API, so queries can be tested in the service by selecting the appropriate publication and then running the search from your “sr?” statement.

You can use a URL in the following format to open the correct search form for a particular publication

<http://cisweb.lexis-nexis.com/sourceselect/returnToSearch.asp?csisrc={csi}&after=0:ALL>

For example, the following URL will open the search form for *The New York Times*.

<http://cisweb.lexis-nexis.com/sourceselect/returnToSearch.asp?csisrc=6742&after=0:ALL>

You will usually be able to enter your search string as a full text search with date set to “All available”.

The screenshot displays the LexisNexis Academic search interface. On the left, there are two main sections: 'Academic Search Forms' with links for Quick Info, News, Business, Legal Research, Medical, and Reference; and 'Search for Other Information' with links for Congressional, Environmental, Government Periodicals Index, Primary Sources in U.S. History, Scholastic Edition, State Capital, and Statistical. The main content area is titled 'Quick News Search' and 'Guided News Search'. It is divided into five steps:

- Step One: Select a news category -- Entry Required**: A dropdown menu is set to 'U.S. News'.
- Step Two: Select a news source -- Entry Required**: A dropdown menu is set to 'Northeast Regional Sources', with a 'Source List' link next to it.
- Step Three: Enter search terms -- Entry Required**: The search terms are 'headline(Spendin' in 'Full Text'. Below this, there are two 'and' dropdown menus, each followed by an empty search box and a dropdown menu set to 'Headline, Lead Paragraph(s), Terms'.
- Step Four: Narrow to a specific date range -- Optional**: The 'All available dates' radio button is selected, with a dropdown menu next to it. Below it are 'From:' and 'To:' text boxes.
- Step Five: Search this publication title(s) -- Optional**: A text box contains the text '"The New York Times"'. To the right of this box are 'Search' and 'Clear Form' buttons.

Error Messages

You do not have access to the source you are trying to search. Please change the source and re-submit your search.

Check the A-Z list to see if the source is contained within a third-party source. See the section on third-party sources, below.

Test your search within the product by selecting your source from the Source List and running the search using the “Search This Title” option. See “Validating Queries,” above.

No Documents were found for your search.

Test your search within the product by selecting your source from the Source List and running the search using the “Search This Title” option. See “Validating Queries,” above.

Third-Party Sources

Some titles are accessible in LexisNexis *Academic* only as part of an aggregate or group source file. The news sources included in the *Global News Wire* source are a good example of this. These sources cannot be searched directly using the URL API. Instead, you must specify the CSI for the aggregate source.

In the following example, a URL is constructed to search the *Hungarian News Agency*, which is a source included in *Global News Wire*.

The CSI for *Global News Wire* is 227171.

The CSI for *Hungarian News Agency* is 228094.

If you followed the standard procedure, you would construct a URL such as the following. This URL will fail, returning the error message “You do not have access to the source you are trying to search.”

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=228094&sr=headline\(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES\) and date is August 29, 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=228094&sr=headline(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES) and date is August 29, 2006)

The following URL will link to a sample story from *Hungarian News Agency*. In this example, the “publication” segment is used to specify the source. Because the precise words used in the publication title may change over time, it may be necessary to tweak the value used in the “publication” segment for some sources.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=227171&sr=publication\(Hungarian News Agency\) and headline\(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES\) and date is August 29, 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=227171&sr=publication(Hungarian News Agency) and headline(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES) and date is August 29, 2006)

However it is not required that you specify a publication segment value in addition to the CSI, and in many cases the standard citation information will return a unique hit even without this restriction. The following URL omits the “publication” segment and works just as well.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=227171&sr=headline\(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES\) and date is August 29, 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=227171&sr=headline(MAGYAR TELEKOM UNIT AMONG SELLERS OF MONTENEGRIN BANK SHARES) and date is August 29, 2006)

The third-party sources will be flagged in the A-Z Title List by having a value in the “Aggregator csi” column.

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Appendix 1

Searching Combined US & Canadian Law Reviews

The technique described in this appendix is primarily intended to support linking from citation lists in federate search services. Federate search is done using the LexisNexis Web Services Toolkit, and only searches law journals in the US & Canadian Law Reviews combined source. Rather than trying to resolve the CSI for individual journals, law journal citations returned from federated searches can be linked to within the combined source under CSI 7327. This method may not be practical in situations, such as linking from citations in another database service, where UK or other journals may be cited.

Attributes for all links:

CSI= 7327 (Combined US & Canadian Law Reviews)

Search Segments

Publication	This segment contains copyright and publication information
CITE	This segment contains the reference to the document's location in the published source.
NAME	This segment will contain the name of the author of the document.
TITLE	This segment will contain the title of the document.
DATE	

Example 1:

Publication: Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal
 Article: International Responsibility for Human Rights Violations by American Indian Tribes
 Name: Klint A. Cowan
 Date: 2006
 Cite: 9 Yale H.R. & Dev. L.J.1

Method A. URL using cite segment:

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=cite\(9 Yale H.R. Dev. L.J. 1\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=cite(9 Yale H.R. Dev. L.J. 1))

Note: Ampersand was removed from citation.

Method B. URL using title + date segments

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=title\(International Responsibility for Human Rights Violations by American Indian Tribes\) and date is 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=title(International Responsibility for Human Rights Violations by American Indian Tribes) and date is 2006)

Example 2:

Publication: Columbia Journal of Asian Law
Spring, 2006
Cite: 19 Colum. J. Asian L. 428
Title : BEYOND THE "FOUR WALLS" IN AN AGE OF TRANSNATIONAL JUDICIAL
CONVERSATIONS CIVIL LIBERTIES, RIGHTS THEORIES, AND CONSTITUTIONAL
ADJUDICATION IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE
NAME: LI-ANN THIO *

Method A. URL using cite:

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=cite\(19 Colum. J. Asian L. 428\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=cite(19 Colum. J. Asian L. 428))

Method B. URL using title + date

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=title\(BEYOND THE "FOUR WALLS" IN AN AGE OF TRANSNATIONAL JUDICIAL CONVERSATIONS\) and date is 2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe/api/version1/sr?csi=7327&sr=title(BEYOND THE)

Note: Quotation marks OK, truncated title for convenience, had to drop "Spring" from date.