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LexisNexis® Academic URL API Specification

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Introduction

The API acronym stands for “application programming interface.” It’s a mechanism that allows programmers to call functions within another application. In this case, you will be constructing a URL rather than writing a computer program. The application you will send instructions to is the LexisNexis *Academic* service itself, and you will be able to call the following three functions.

1. **Document-level link** – retrieves a specific document.
2. **Source-level link** – opens the Power Search form and populates the source selection options to facilitate user-initiated searching of a specific source.
3. **Search form link** – open any search form in LexisNexis *Academic*.

Conventions

URLs constructed according the URL API are composed of a base URL plus a set of parameters and values. In the example URLs given below, curly brackets { } enclose parameters that you must supply. The curly brackets themselves are not used in the actual URLs. It is recommended but not required that you use the plus sign “+” to replace spaces in URLs.

Base URL will be shown with a grey background. It is the part of the URL that does not change. Different base URLs are used depending on the purpose of the URL you are constructing.

Terminology

This specification assumes that you have access to LexisNexis *Academic* and some familiarity with the rules of constructing advanced searches. Unfamiliar terms and search techniques can be looked up in the Help text within the LexisNexis *Academic* service.

Precision: Percentage of the retrieved documents that are true hits. When the URL you construct works properly, you should retrieve only one document and it should be the right one, so precision would be 100%. If the search built in your URL lacks precision, you will retrieve extraneous documents.

Recall: Percentage of appropriate documents available in the database that were retrieved by the search. If you retrieve the one intended document, recall should also be 100%. If the search built in your URL has poor recall, you will fail to retrieve the document even though it is available.

Section 1: Document-Level Link

The URL API allows you to create direct links to specific articles, monographs, and other documents contained in LexisNexis *Academic* provided that you know the LexisNexis constant source identifier (CSI) and enough bibliographic information to construct a precise search. This technique allows you to create links to documents from e-reserve lists, course syllabi, and bibliographies. It also facilitates use of LexisNexis *Academic* as a full-text target by OpenURL article linking services.

The standard format and required elements are shown below. A slightly different method is used for retrieving Company Dossier reports, as illustrated in Section 1, Case 5 and its example.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi={linking csi}
&sr={bibliographic search}+AND+{publication date}
```

Required elements

- **Base URL**
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=>
- **Linking CSI** is the unique number that identifies a LexisNexis source. A source may be a specific publication such as the *New York Times* or a third-party database such as *Global Newswire*.
- **Bibliographic Search** is a valid search string for the LexisNexis search engine. It consists of segments names plus values. Query components are joined using the Boolean AND. Consecutive words are searched like phrases (implied adjacency). Consult the “View Connectors” help text on the Power Search form for details on query formulation.
- **Publication date** should be specified using DATE IS operator and any of the following date formats. Use as much detail as you have, and always use 4-digit years.
 - 1999
 - 3/1999
 - 3/5/1999
 - March 1999
 - March 5, 1999 (comma can be omitted)
 - 5 Mar 1999
 - 5 March 1999
 - 1999-04-05 (NISO format)

Using the A-Z List to Build Document-Level Links

Segments: Refer to the A-Z list posted on the “Content Reports” page at www.lexisnexis.com/academicmigration to determine the “Linking CSI” and the proper segment names to be used in the bibliographic query. In general, news and business sources will use “BYLINE” and “HLEAD” while law journals will use “AUTHOR” and “TITLE” for these bibliographic elements, as shown in the illustration below.

Linking CSI: Note that each title in the A-Z list has its own CSI as well as a Linking CSI. For document-level linking, you should ignore the CSI in Column A. The two CSI numbers are actually the same except in the case of 3rd-party database, for which you must search under the CSI for the database rather than that of the individual title. In the illustration below, *New York/New Jersey Environmental Compliance* must be searched under CSI 152627, which identifies a third-party database.

	A	B	D	Q	T	U
1	csi	Title	Coverage Begin	Linking CSI	Author Segment	Title Segment
4353	148874	New York Law School Law Review	01/01/1992	148874	AUTHOR	TITLE
4354	241959	New York Observer	01/11/1999	241959	BYLINE	HLEAD
4355	164207	The New York Post	12/05/1997	164207	BYLINE	HLEAD
4356	266732	New York Sun	06/17/2003	266732	BYLINE	HLEAD
4357	6742	The New York Times	06/01/1980	6742	BYLINE	HLEAD
4358	224659	New York University Annual Survey of America	01/01/1997	224659	AUTHOR	TITLE
4359	224656	New York University Journal of International La	01/01/1997	224656	AUTHOR	TITLE
4360	224660	New York University Journal of Legislation and	01/01/1998	224660	AUTHOR	TITLE
4361	7351	New York University Law Review	04/01/1982	7351	AUTHOR	TITLE
4362	224661	New York University Review of Law & Social C	01/01/1997	224661	AUTHOR	TITLE
4363	192250	New York/New Jersey Environmental Complia	10/01/1995	152627	BYLINE	HLEAD
4364	237442	The New Yorker	12/27/1999	237442	BYLINE	HLEAD

Case 1: Newspaper or Periodical Articles

Segments that are used to retrieve articles from newspapers and periodicals

Segment	Description	Notes
BYLINE	Name(s) of article author(s)	Omitting the author’s first name will improve recall but may hurt precision. Use “w/3” (within 3 words) operator between first and last name to ignore middle initials and word order.
HLEAD	Article title plus section headings plus first paragraph	Tips to improve recall: Use HLEAD rather than the available HEADLINE segment because the cited title may be split between HEADLINE and other segments such as SECTION. Cited titles often do not match document titles verbatim, so truncate the title or select a few keywords from it. Connect non-adjacent words with the “AND” operator. Strip out punctuation and quotation marks, as well as the words “and,” “or,” and “not.”
DATE	Article publication date	Use one of the supported date formats, above.

Example 1.1: Article in *Chronicle of Higher Education* (CSI=171267)
 Guterman, Lila and Monaghan, Peter. "Journal Eases Its Policy on Potential Conflicts; Book's Title Becomes a Running Controversy." *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (June 28, 2002): 16.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=BYLINE\(Lila+w/3+Guterman\)+AND+HLEAD\(Journal+Eases+AND+Policy\)+AND+DATE+IS+June+28+2002](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=BYLINE(Lila+w/3+Guterman)+AND+HLEAD(Journal+Eases+AND+Policy)+AND+DATE+IS+June+28+2002)

Example 1.2: Article from *Seattle Times* (CSI=8206)
 Seattle Times Technology Staff. "Download: Bits and Bytes. Microsoft Gossip Travels via Yahoo!" *Seattle Times*, Business Section (May 21, 2007)

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8206&sr=BYLINE\(Staff\)+AND+HLEAD\(Microsoft+Gossip\)+AND+DATE+IS+May+21+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8206&sr=BYLINE(Staff)+AND+HLEAD(Microsoft+Gossip)+AND+DATE+IS+May+21+2007)

Example 1.3: Movie review from *The New Yorker* (CSI=237442)
 Denby, David. "Power Players: 'All the King's Men' and 'The Last King of Scotland'." *The New Yorker* 82.31 (October 2, 2006): 99.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=237442&sr=BYLINE\(David+w/3+Denby\)+AND+HLEAD\(Last+King+of+Scotland\)+AND+DATE+IS+October+2+2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=237442&sr=BYLINE(David+w/3+Denby)+AND+HLEAD(Last+King+of+Scotland)+AND+DATE+IS+October+2+2006)

Example 1.4: Story from Global Newswire 3rd-party database (CSI=227171)
 Agbebaaku, Peter. "Ghana, Egypt Bring Nigeria Down to Earth." *This Day* (February 25, 2007).

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=BYLINE\(Peter+w/3+Agbebaaku\)+AND+HLEAD\(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+to+Earth\)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=BYLINE(Peter+w/3+Agbebaaku)+AND+HLEAD(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+to+Earth)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007)

Case 2: Law Review Articles

Segments that are used to retrieve articles from law review articles. The most accurate method is to use the standard citation. When this is not possible, use a bibliographic search.

Segment	Description	Notes
CITE	Standard legal citation for a law review article	No additional information is needed if you have the citation. If you do not have the citation, you may use a bibliographic search.
AUTHOR	Article author plus biographical info if any	
NAME	Article author(s)	Usually equivalent to AUTHOR
TITLE	Article title	

Example 2.1: Article in *Georgetown Law Journal* (CSI=7337) using citation
 Petronio, Michael C. "Eliminating the Social Cost of Higher Education: The Third Circuit Allows Social Welfare Benefits to Justify Horizontal Restraints of Trade in *United States v. Brown University*." *Georgetown Law Journal* (November 1994). Citation: 83 *Geo. L.J.* 189.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=CITE\(83+Geo.+L.J.+189\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=CITE(83+Geo.+L.J.+189))

Example 2.2: Same article using bibliographic search

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=AUT  
HOR(Petronio)+AND+TITLE(Eliminating+the+Social+Cost+of+Higher+Education)+AN  
D+DATE+IS+November+1994
```

Case 3: Monographs

Monographs are almost always included under a third party database.

Segments that are used to retrieve monographs.

Segment	Description	Notes
PUBLICATION	Title of the monograph	This will normally be the only search field required to retrieve a monograph
AUTHOR	Monograph author	Some monographs will have author
BYLINE	Monograph author	Some monographs will have byline

Example 3.1 Monograph from the Policy Papers collection (CSI=239563)
Kelling, George L. "Broken Windows" and Police Discretion. National Institute of Justice.
October 1999.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=239563&sr=PUBLI  
CATION(Broken+Windows)
```

Case 4: Broadcast Transcripts

Television and radio broadcast are included under third party databases and are best searched by the name of the show using the SHOW segment, other criteria should be entered as a simple full-text search.

Example 4.1 Transcript of "Fresh Air" on NPR from Burrelle's Transcripts (CSI=157447)
Interview of Denis Leary by Terry Gross on "Fresh Air," broadcast on NPR, June 7, 2007.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=157447&sr=SHOW  
(fresh+air)+AND+leary+AND+DATE+IS+June+7+2007
```

Case 5: Dossier for a Specific Company

The URL API will allow you to retrieve the Company Dossier report for a specific company using its ticker symbol. Note that the base URL is different for Dossier. This feature allows you to create a durable URL to a Dossier report. If you do not know the ticker, you can find it using Dossier.

Example 5.1 Company Dossier report on Microsoft (ticker = MSFT)

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/accessGW?gw=FC&tr=MSFT
```

Testing and Trouble Shooting Document Linking URLs

Validating Queries

The same search logic is used within the LexisNexis *Academic* service as in the URL API, so queries can be tested and refined in the service by selecting the appropriate publication and then entering the text that follows the “sr?” verb in your URL. You can either use the Sources tab in LexisNexis *Academic* to locate your source, or insert its Linking CSI into the search-within-source URL described in Section 2, below. If your query is not returning a hit, experiment with broader date ranges or less specific search terms for example using only the author’s last name instead of first and last.

Error Messages

Please verify the source name you have used as it either does not exist or you do not have access to it.

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

Special Techniques for 3rd-Party Databases

In almost all cases, the techniques described in Examples 1-4 above will return results equally well for standalone titles and title that are within third-party databases. If a URL to a document within a third-party database is returning too many hits, you can narrow it further using the “PUBLICATION” segment that is found in all third-party databases to specify the title of the newspaper or periodical. Below, the URL from Example 4 has been altered to include the additional search criterion “PUBLICATION(This+Day)” where “This Day” is the title of the newspaper in which the article appears. The same Linking CSI is used in both versions.

Example 1.4 Revisited: Using PUBLICATION Segment

Agbebaku, Peter. "Ghana, Egypt Bring Nigeria Down to Earth." This Day (February 25, 2007).

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=PUBLICATION(This+Day)+AND+BYLINE(Peter+w/3+Agbebaku)+AND+HLEAD(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+AND+Earth)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007
```

Section 2: Source-Level Link

The URL API allows you to open the Power Search form and specify a particular publication to be search. This technique allows you to create journal-level links from an OPAC or e-Journals service. A special approach is needed for publications included under third-party databases.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc  
h&csi={linking csi}
```

Required elements

- **Base URL**

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc  
h&csi=
```
- **Linking CSI** is the unique number that identifies a LexisNexis source. A source may be a specific publication such as the *New York Times* or a third-party database such as *Global Newswire*.

Example 2.1 Search within a stand-alone source

Search the *New York Times* (CSI=6742)

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc  
h&csi=6742
```

Example 2.2 Search with a publication under a third-party database

Search in *Global News Wire* database (CSI=227171)

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc  
h&csi=227171
```

Note: Functionality will be added in to permit you to specify a publication contained within a third-party database by pre-populating the search box with a PUBLICATION segment search. Documentation will be provided once the functionality is released.

Section 3: Search Form Link

The URL API allows you to create a direct URL for any search form. This technique allows you to create quick links from your own documentation to appropriate search forms. For example, a syllabus for a business class could link to Company Dossier or a guide to legal research could link to the Shepard's Citation form.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi={form name}
```

Required elements

- **Base URL**

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=
```
- **Form Name**

Example 3.1 Open the Federal and State Cases Search Form (name= AC07STCseCmnSrch)

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC07STCseCmnSrch>

The table below provides the name of each search form in LexisNexis *Academic*. Construct a URL to link to any form by appending its name to the base URL.

Lexis Nexis <i>Academic</i> Search Forms		
Menu Tab	Form Label	Form Name
General	Easy Search	AC00NBEasySrch
General	Power Search	AC00NBGenSrch
News	News	AC01NBSimplSrch
News	Roper Polls	AC01NBRoperRschr
Legal	Law Reviews	AC07STJrnlsSrchr
Legal	Federal & State Cases	AC07STCseCmnSrchr
Legal	Shepard's Citations	AC07STShepardLegal
Legal	Federal & State Codes	AC07STFedStCodesSrchr
Legal	Tax Law	AC07STTaxLawSrchr
Legal	Patents	AC07STPatentSrchr
Legal	Canadian Cases	AC03STCanCseSrchr
Legal	Canadian Legislation	AC03STCanLegSrchr
Legal	EU, Commonwealth, and Foreign Nations	AC07STEUCWSrchr
Business	Company Dossier	AC02NBCmpDosSrchr
Business	Company Profiles	AC02NBCmpSrchr
Business	SEC Filings	AC02NBSECFilSrchr
Business	Accounting	AC02NBAacctSrchr
Business	Country Profiles	AC06NBCounSrchr
People	People	AC05NBPeopSrchr