Lexis® Advance
Law Schools BETA

Faculty FAQs

Welcome to Lexis® Advance for Law Schools *BETA*, designed to transform the way you conduct legal reseasrch. Use the responses to these Frequently Asked Questions to get the most out of your access to the system.

1. How will Lexis Advance be released to law schools?

In order to assure a smooth introduction, Lexis® Advance for Law Schools *BETA* will be phased into law schools beginning with the Librarian and Legal Research and Writing faculty ID distribution in May. Distribution of approximately 47,000 student IDs will begin in August, with distribution to remaining students/schools in October. In October, additional content and functionality will also be added.

Since Lexis Advance for Law Schools is being introduced as a BETA version, we will be collecting feedback from librarians and Legal Research and Writing faculty throughout the summer, via survey, one on one interviews, and focus groups.

2. What happens to *lexis.com*? Will all customers be forced to move to Lexis Advance at some point?

It is our intent to retire *lexis.com* in the future. This will not take place until we have Lexis Advance available for all segments and then we will work with our customers to migrate over. At this time a time table for the retirement of *lexis.com* has not been established.

3. Is Lexis Advance for Law Schools *BETA* your response to WestlawNext?

This is not a response to WestlawNext, it is a response to our customers' research needs. Our strategy is to listen to our customers and develop innovative solutions that drive better outcomes for them. Over 30,000 customer interactions drove the development of Lexis® Advance for Solos, Associates, and Law Schools *BETA*.

4. What content is available on Lexis Advance for Law Schools *BETA*?

You can see the complete content listing for Lexis Advance for Law Schools *BETA* by clicking the **Content Listings** tab under the *Browse the help index* link in the Support panel.

5. My school uses ALR extensively during 1L research exercises. When is the addition of ALR planned?

The addition of ALR materials is planned for 2012.

6. When will international databases be added to Lexis Advance?

International titles will be added in 2012.

7. When will Restatements be made available?

Restatements will be available later this fall.

8. Terms & Connectors for Boolean searches are different from *lexis.com* and not as many are available; why?

We performed an analysis of the most frequently used Boolean connectors and found that outside of "and", "or", "w/n", the remainder of our Boolean connectors were used infrequently, so we moved to the new web standard set of Boolean connectors with the release of Lexis® Advance for Law Schools *BETA*.

9. Does Lexis Advance automatically find plurals and possessives like *lexis.com* does?

Lexis Advance does look for plurals unless the words or phrase is in quotes, in which case only the words as typed will be searched. Additionally our Term Equivalency Dictionary includes equivalent terms based on legal concepts. For example, the phrase accomplice testimony finds "accomplice's testimony" and "testimony of accomplices."

In situations where doubts or foreseeable problems might occur, terms are treated individually. For example, based on our dictionary, "books" and "book" are equivalent, whereas "booked" is not. Other examples are "fines/fine", "check/checking", "second/seconds" or "stand/stood/standing".

Some additional terms are included in the dictionary as equivalents based on our knowledge and understanding of use. For

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example, paediatric is an equivalent for "pediatric", and "written wills/his will/original will" are all equivalents for "the will." The single word "will" is not tagged as "the will."

10. Will the word wheel in the initial search box search for words other than the initial (first) word that is entered into the box?

Yes, the Word Wheel looks for all locations of words in the phrases/words we entered into the term box. For example, if a user types **emin**... they will see:

- **emin**ent domain
- use **emin**ent domain
- right of **emin**ent domain

11. When the researcher runs a Boolean search and includes a phrase which is not in quotes and puts in other terms which are in quotes, will Lexis Advance search both at once?

Yes, there is a way to combine a quoted phrase with other terms in a query. The algorithm looks for user-quoted phrases before other words. So, the following search: "dog" bite homeowner is processed as: "dog" or "bite" or "homeowner."
With "dog" being a user-quoted phrase and "bite homeowner" being treated as additional terms connected by "or."

12. Is the relevance algorithm that generates search results the same that is used by *lexis.com* for natural language search results today?

No, the relevance algorithm used by Lexis Advance is a state-of-the-art enhancement over the *lexis.com* algorithm. Lexis Advance uses a variety of proprietary methods in producing relevant results for our users; "relevance" as we have defined it means that the document a user would expect to find in their results appears as one of the first five documents in a user's results set. To ensure this result, Lexis Advance includes, but does not limit, the following:

a. Automatic phrase recognition
b. Case name recognition
c. Implied phrases between connectors
d. Proximity search between the terms
e. Activity score boosting in the ranking algorithm (i.e. "landmarkness" of the case)

13. How are results ordered when the name of a source (e.g., 7th circuit) is typed in the main search box?

Lexis Advance does not perform segment restricted searches. In addition, if the phrase "7th circuit" is not enclosed in quotes then it will be run as a Natural Language search: 7th circuit, or 7th or circuit. It will also find variations on the two terms. Documents containing the phrase will generally be ranked higher than documents without the phrase. If the phrase is enclosed in quotes, it will only find documents containing that exact phrase with no variations.

14. Where are the work folders stored?

Work folders are stored at LexisNexis®.

15. Can you email an entire work folder to someone? Can work folders be downloaded?

You cannot email the entire folder at once - individual items may be sent via email. The ability to share work folders is in the development plan for Lexis Advance. Yes, up to 100 documents may be downloaded at a time.

16. How many work folders can you have and how long may content be stored in a folder?

Users may create an unlimited number of both top-level and sub-level folders and add up to 500 items across all of their work folders. In addition, they can sort their activities based on Title, Date, Type and Client. They can also search across all of their work folders. Items are stored in work folders until removed by the user; Lexis Advance will not remove items from a user's work folder. Purchased content stored in a work folder may be accessed for 90 days. After 90 days, the user will need to re-purchase the document(s).

17. What happens when a user reaches 500 items across work folders?

The user will be notified that the 500-item limit has been reached. Item(s) will need to be removed before others can be added.

18. Can a user change/delete notes that were previously entered using work folder annotations?
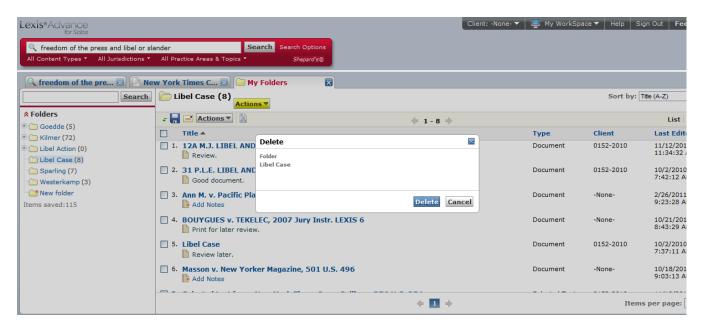
Users may change/edit notes they have added to a work folder. To do so, open the document and in the upper right corner is an edit button. Select the edit button to edit or delete the saved note.

19. Does content in a work folder automatically update?

Not at this time.

20. Can an entire folder be deleted or do its contents need to be deleted one at a time?

Entire folders may be deleted. Simply select a folder and click on the "Actions" button highlighted below in yellow, then confirm the deletion. This removes the folder and all of its contents.

21. How long are searches kept in History?

History on Lexis Advance is saved for 90 days, however, a user may move items in History to a work folder where they will remain indefinitely.

22. Can History be emailed or otherwise shared?

History may be emailed up to five users at a time. The maximum number of individual items for each email is 100.

23. Will *Shepard's*® reports still be organized by jurisdiction?

Yes, under the Citing Decisions tab, results are still organized by jurisdiction. Also, *Shepard's* reports may be organized by a specific court using the post-search filter "Court", select specific jurisdiction and the results will be filtered to that jurisdiction(s) only.

24. When you narrow your *Shepard's* report using the "Term within Results" filter can you show your hits in the *Shepard's* report?

This functionality is not currently available.

25. In *Shepard's* is there a screen similar to "Focus-Restrict by" in *lexis.com* where multiple selections can be made on one page and results generated once, or do we need to narrow by HN, term, jurisdiction, date, etc. one at a time, with new results generated each time we narrow by any individual criteria?

Yes, the "Narrow by . . . " filters on the left of the Citing Decisions allow you to quickly narrow your report by:

Type of *Shepard's* Analysis; Court; Headnotes; Terms within results (former FOCUS™); Timeline (by date).

26. When viewing case law search results in *lexis.com*, an "Overview" and "Core Terms" are displayed for each result. Are these features still available in Lexis Advance?

Both "Overview" and "Core Terms" are still a part of each document on Lexis Advance. Core Terms are also used to populate the "Keyword" post-search filter. Both items are a part of the static document without "Show/Hide."

27. Will Copy to Clipboard work with multiple browser types? (On *lexis.com*, Copy w/Cite only works as intended with Internet Explorer).

Yes, Copy to Clipboard works will all supported browsers on Lexis Advance.

28. Is it possible to expand the portion of the screen in which results lists are displayed? A large portion of the viewable space appears to be blank/gray and wasted. This is especially true when a document is accessed/linked into from a *Shepard's* report or from a results list.

Yes, in the upper-right hand corner of each document are the following icons:

Expand to fit the entire window: Shrink document to show the tools area:

29. It appears that "Interpretive Notes & Decisions" for USCS sections has been renamed "Case Notes." Many case summary annotations available on state codes in *lexis.com* are called "Case Notes." Was this change made to the USCS to ensure a consistent description to these types of annotations across state/federal codes?

Yes it was.

30. How does the Legal Issue Trail work?

The Legal Issue Trail allows the user to pick out the legal passage that is most important to his/her research and then find other cases that cite to that legal passage, thus building authority not just around a case, but for a specific point of law within a case. It is done through linguistic analysis as well as the underlying intelligence of *Shepard's*. The Legal Issue Trail is a patented product that is original and unique to LexisNexis.

31. Will Lexis Advance work with LexisNexis Web Courses, CaseMap®, and Lexis® *for* Microsoft® Office?

Integration with other products, including LexisNexis Web Courses, CaseMap, and Lexis *for* Microsoft Office, is planned for future releases of Lexis Advance. As release dates get closer, we will provide you with specifics.

32. Will there be a Lexis Advance iPad and/or mobile application? If so, when will it release?

A Lexis Advance for Law Schools *BETA* app is in the works, but you and your students can use the app developed for Lexis® Advance for Solos right now. Although it was developed for law firms, your Lexis Advance for Law Schools *BETA* ID will work with the Lexis Advance for Solos app. Your students can expect to see Lexis Advance, the Solos app and other law firm-specific apps this summer and in the future.

33. Will Lexis Advance be linked/accessible on Kindles?

Lexis Advance supports the delivery of documents to both the Kindle and Nook. To send a document to either e-reader, all the user needs to do is select email from any location in Lexis Advance, enter their Kindle email address and up to four others and hit send. There is no formatting required (which Kindle can charge extra for), and the document comes to the Kindle as a pdf. For the Nook the procedure is the same; the format is great and needs no manipulation on the part of Lexis Advance.