

January 2013

# Mini Review

## Lexis Advance

### Introduction

In the ever-evolving race to redefine the landscape of legal research, LexisNexis has long occupied an enviable position among those content providers on the cutting edge. It was not the first legal information vendor, post Google revolution, to release a single search solution for the law market. But through a series of customer responsive releases, the company has sought to make its offering one of the most innovative.

Lexis Advance™ does not turn the world of legal research on its head. Rather it takes decades of advancement in understanding the needs, habits, and workflows of information seekers and distills them into a unified, efficient, and accessible platform. Lexis Advance is arguably the most inspired product the company has released since the launch of its original flagship system. With its fourth iteration about to drop, LexisNexis is not resting on either its laurels or the accolades its newest platform has received.

### Content & Coverage

Lexis Advance offers virtually the same depth and breadth of coverage as its classic predecessor. Currently this includes over 37 billion documents culled from over 40,000 sources, including public records. Primary sources, such as cases, legislation, and codes are still at the very heart of the system, with the same comprehensive access to United States federal and state materials. The secondary sources, as well as news sources and analytical materials, are as robust as ever.

There is not yet, however, a 100% correlation between the contents of classic Lexis and Lexis Advance. Still missing from the content mix are materials from non-US jurisdictions and intellectual property sources. Both of these areas are scheduled to be added to Lexis Advance in the months ahead.



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Lexis Advance is the 2013 SIIA  
CODiE Award winner for Best  
Legal Information Solution

**//CODiE//**  
**2013 SIIA CODiE WINNER**

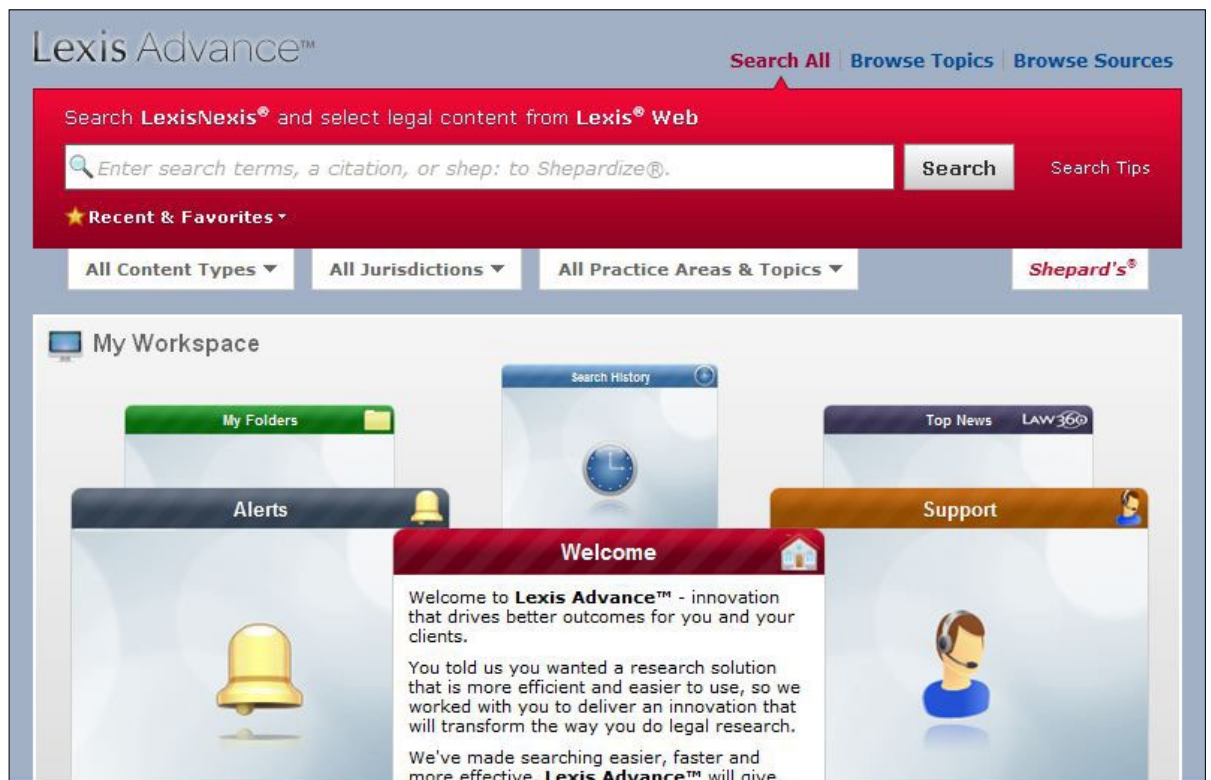


Figure 1: The Lexis Advance main screen

## Interface & Accessibility

What truly sets Lexis Advance apart from its formidable predecessor is its streamlined interface and advanced functionality. Designed to offer simplicity to the neophyte as well as comprehensive functionality to the seasoned searcher, the search and browse capabilities of the new platform offer unprecedented flexibility to anyone looking to get the right information. Lexis Advance is built for power and efficiency. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Single Search Functionality**  
The single search interface at the top of the screen is a comfort to anyone accustomed to the modern web search à la Google and its competitors (though full Boolean is still available for those who want to use it). Gone is the need to fret over choosing databases based on content and size and then having your search priced accordingly. Run one search to access the sea of content possibilities. Backed by the company's High-Performance Computing Cluster or "HPCC", the single search is designed to process inclusive searches and sift through Lexis' vast datasets at unimaginable speeds. Search results are delivered in a handy snapshot view that quickly gives the user an overview of what is available and from which sources. Good riddance to the old guesswork on where to begin.
- **Pre-Filtering for Precision**  
Lexis Advance is not a one-trick pony. In addition to its powerful one-search capability, the system also offers a valuable set of pre-filters that allow the end user to focus that initial search on specific sets of content. Choose from among different types of primary and secondary materials, business content, news sources and more to refine your search from its outset. The problem with so many single search systems is that it is often like trying to take a sip from a fire hose. The beauty of the pre-filtering options is that you can control the flow of information before the deluge of results even begins.

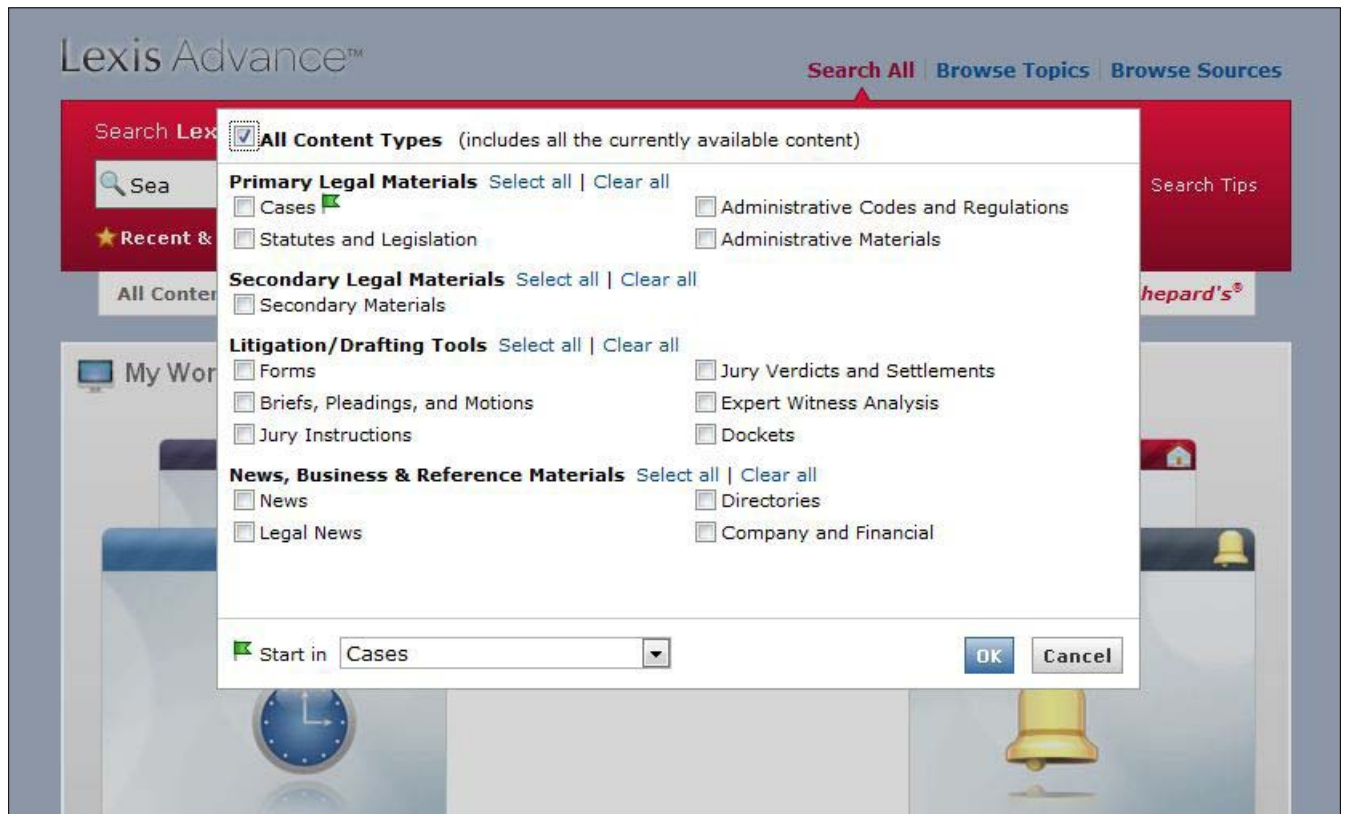


Figure 2: Pre-Filtering in Lexis Advance

#### ▪ **Post-Search Filters Too**

The power of Lexis Advance does not stop once the results are returned. From the snapshot view, users can make use of a powerful set of post-search filters on the left side of the screen. Drill down your results by applying filters for jurisdiction, source, court, and so many more. Every layer gets you closer to the precise results you need. If you go too far in your narrowing, stepping back is as easy as clicking away the filters you wish to remove. The filtering in Lexis Advance is logical, methodical, and, above all, easy to use.

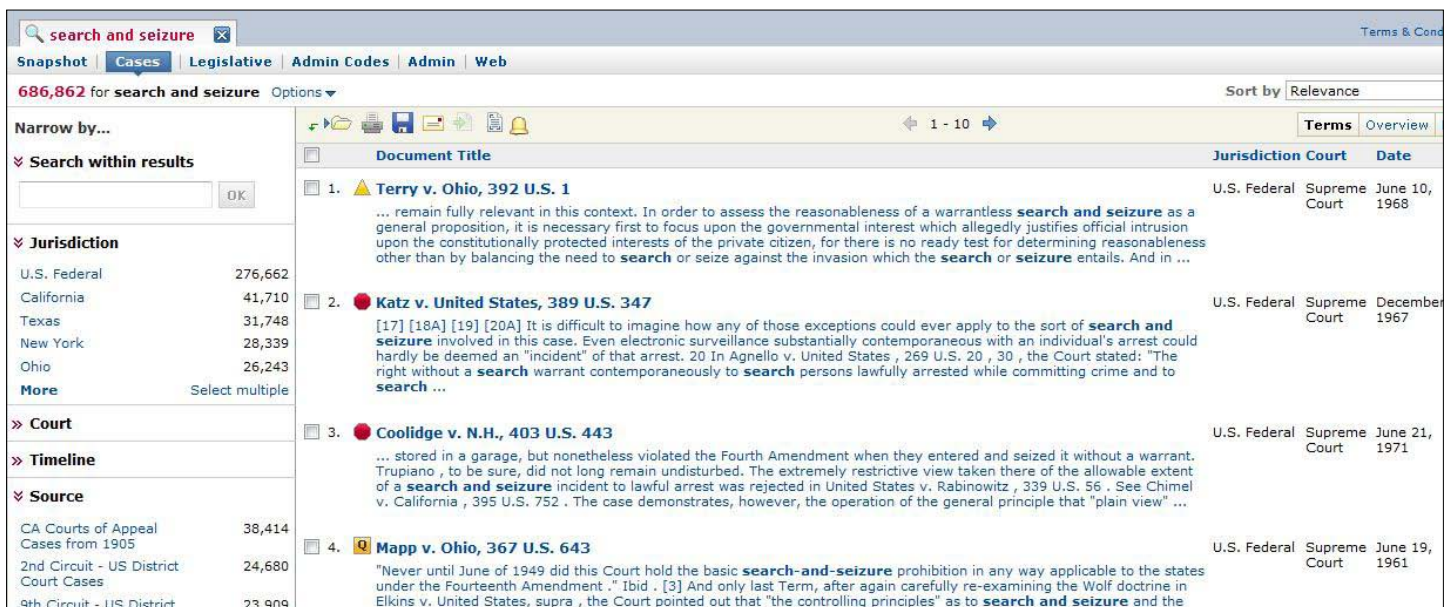


Figure 3: Snapshot View of Results and Post-Search Filtering in Lexis Advance



## Additional Innovations

Powerful search capabilities, though the core of the system, are just a part of what Lexis Advance has to offer. The platform continues to develop in terms of both content and user experience. The Customer Discovery & Innovation Team at Lexis are constantly working with users to determine needs, wants, and satisfaction. Over 35,000 one-to-one contacts have already been made. The results are appreciable. Other innovations you will find, as a result of these customer conversations, include:

- **The Wonderful “Word Wheel”**

Not sure of what terms to be using? Built into the single search interface is a powerful “word wheel” of common terms to help end users formulate their searches. Start typing your terms and Lexis Advance will provide you with helpful suggestions to get you started. Even case names are included, along with their citations! A simple click will add them to the search if so desired.

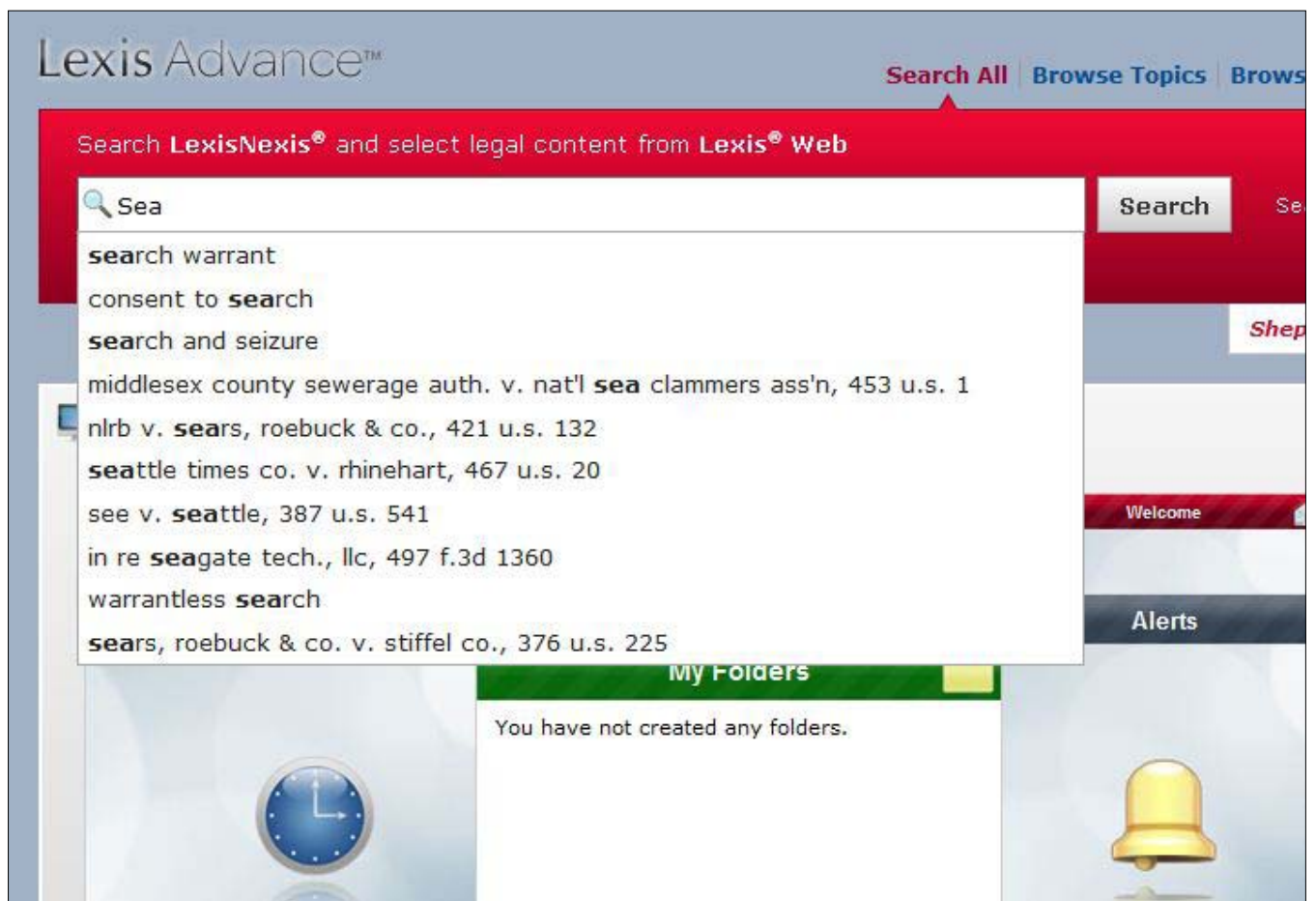


Figure 4: The Lexis Advance “Word Wheel” in Action

- **The Research Map**

Figuring out where you have been and what you have done in the process of searching has never been easier thanks to the Lexis Advance “Research Map”. As the name suggests, it features a graphical look at the steps you have taken along the way. From search strings to content sets, filters and results, everything is visually laid out to give you a complete picture of your workflow and thought process. Clicking at any point on the chronological chart allows you to re-run searches, re-visit result sets, and even create alerts along the way.

Figure 5: The Lexis Advance Research Map

- **Topic Summaries**

For those looking for topical materials, Lexis Advance adds a powerful new dimension to its browse capabilities. **Topic Summaries**, compiled by the company's own internal experts, provide excellent primers on many areas of law. They include key definitions, seminal cases, important statutes and regulations, analytical materials, and references to helpful secondary sources on the topic.

Figure 6: The Start of a Lexis Advance Topic Summary

## Not All and More to Come...

There is so much to like about Lexis Advance – more than can be discussed in a single, mini review. The Legal Issue Trail, map and grid functionality for cases, shareable folders, and sleek tab-based structure are just some of the other innovations and improvements Lexis Advance has added over its predecessor. With version 4.0 of the platform slated for a mid-2013 release, even more is on the way. More content and more functionality are on the horizon.

## Pricing

No review of any research system is complete without a few words on costs. Its pricing is indeed one of the things that makes Lexis Advance so compelling as a legal research solution. Anyone who has been in the industry and has used tools like Lexis in the past will remember the days of charges being based upon the number of searches, the sizes of the databases searched, how long was spent on the system, and then what was done with the materials retrieved... Those were mind-boggling times that led to search anxiety. Luckily those days are fading into the past.

With Lexis Advance, users are not charged for their searches or for taking the time to look through their results. That's right, searching is free. Users only pay for the materials that they actually use or view. Though firms can (and do) negotiate their own pricing deals with the company, the market rate charges can be found directly on the site. Primary sources, for example, can run \$13-\$19 per document viewed. News sources can cost about \$13 to \$30. A charge of \$55 is applied to most secondary sources. But again, you only pay for what you use. Like the system itself, Lexis Advance's pricing is a refreshing change to the old way of doing business and legal research.

## FreePint's View

The "Googlisation" of legal research is no longer up for debate; it is a done deal. The desire for a simplified, single search, that does not compromise either power or precision is shared by users across the spectrum. The newer generations of researchers have grown up with it and expect it. Seasoned veterans, stretched by increasing demands on their skills and time, have little patience for anything else. What remains to be seen is how long-entrenched information providers are able to step up to the challenge. With the continued development and adoption of its next generation research platform, Lexis is flexing its muscle and showing its versatility.

Lexis Advance seeks to harness the full power, breadth and depth of Lexis' formidable mountain of content. This is no small feat and has been a learning and development process for the company. Three versions of the platform have already been released and Version 4.0 is about to make its debut. Clearly, Lexis has been doing its homework and listening to its subscribers. The interface is engaging and easy to use. The single search feature is powerfully enhanced by logical, user-friendly filters. Never have we found searching Lexis so natural and easy. This is single search the way it was meant to work - and a welcome advance over traditional online legal research.

Even in its third iteration, the system still has its drawbacks. The lack of international coverage is, perhaps, the most glaring omission and one that will be important to firms with international practices and clientele. We are told that the international materials are next to be added and are eager to see how they will integrate with the new platform. Without this, Lexis Advance does not yet feel quite whole. We look forward to what Version 4.0 has to offer!

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For more information contact:  
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✓ *User-friendly single search interface*

✓ *Powerful filters*

✓ *Research mapping*

✓ *Topic summaries*

✓ *Simplified, straightforward pricing*

✗ *Lack of international materials.*

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