

# LexisNexis® Search by Topic or Search by Headnote

A single search looks across multiple jurisdictions and multiple content types. LexisNexis® Search by Topic or Headnote compiles a thorough overview on your legal topic, pinpoints relevant case annotations, and builds a case digest, including the latest federal and state decisions.

Use **Search by Topic** to compile an extensive area-of-law overview and use **Search by Headnote** to build a case digest. It generates a summary list of relevant and current cases on any legal issue, even emerging legal issues.

**Tip:** It's great when you're unfamiliar with a particular area of law or when you want to get up to speed on an emerging legal trend.

## Cover legal topics with a single search with LexisNexis® Search by Topic

1. Within the Search tab on your main *lexis.com*® page, click the **by Topic or Headnote** sub-tab.
2. Choose a topic.

**Find a Legal Topic** (Option 1); just search with key words, such as emissions testing.

OR

**Explore Legal Topics** (Option 2) by drilling down through one of 40+ practice areas to find the precise topic you need. Select an area, Environmental Law for example, and use the "+" buttons to expand any topic within that area.

**Tip:** Your most recent 20 topics are saved automatically. To return to a saved topic, just select it from the **Recently Used Legal Topics** drop-down list.

3. Make your selections in the Search Across Sources Box ...

**Jurisdiction**—Choose federal, all states, a specific state, or all available municipalities, counties and townships. Or click the **Select Multiple ...** link and choose the federal/state combination that fits your needs.

**Sources**—Click the **Select Sources** button and select the relevant courts, statutes and regulations, agency materials, analytical materials, etc., and click **OK – Use Selected**.

**Search Terms** (Optional)—If you'd like, add terms to refine your research, such as those related to specific case facts. ... and click **Search**.

**Now you can view your results—in an easy-to-use tabbed format.**

- A. See the number of documents retrieved for each source, for example, Cases—277
- B. Zero in on any resource or resource category of interest. Click a link, for example, **All Federal and State Pleadings, Combined—75**.
- C. Or choose a category tab to move to specific sources (mouse over a red arrow and select any source within that tab).
- D. Navigate easily. As you move to specific full-text documents, the tabs remain at the top of your screen. You never lose your place. To return to this screen, select the **All Results** tab.
- E. Print your tabbed results table. Just click the **Print Summary Table** link.
- F. Add additional search terms to refine your research—even to specific content types. For example, to focus your Cases search, click **Advanced**. Choose the sources, add your search words and click **FOCUS™**.

LexisNexis® Total Research System

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FOCUS™ Terms  Search Within Original Results (1 - 2080) Go Advanced...

All Results - (2080) Cases - (277) Statutes & Regulations (Legislative) - (626) Agency Materials - (46) Treatises & Analytical Materials - (121) Court Filings - (734) N

View: Summary 2080 Results

Topic: All Topics > Environmental Law > Air Quality > Emission Standards Combined Source Set 1

Terms: No terms specified (Edit Search | Suggest Terms for My Search)

All Results - 2080 [Print Summary Table](#)

Category	Sources
Cases - 277	CA Cases, Administrative Decisions & Attorney General Opinions, Combined - 46 CA Federal & State Cases, Combined - 191 CA Environmental Cases - 40
Statutes & Regulations (Legislative) - 626	CA - Deering's California Codes Annotated, Constitution, Court Rules & ALS, Comb - 130 CA - Barclays Official California Code of Regulations - 69 CFR - Code of Federal Regulations - 340 United States Code Service - Titles 1 through 50 - 67
Agency Materials - 46	CA Cases, Administrative Decisions & Attorney General Opinions, Combined - 46
Treatises & Analytical Materials - 121	Emerging Toxic Torts: Mealey's Litigation Report - 20 California Environmental Law & Land Use Practice - 89 California Real Estate Law and Practice - 8 California Forms Of Pleading and Practice - Annotated - 1 Treatise on Environmental Law - 3
Court Filings - 734	All Federal and State Briefs and Motions, Combined - 575 All Federal and State Pleadings, Combined - 75 All Federal and State Jury Instruction Filings, Combined - 3 California State Pleadings - 1

## Build case digests on the fly with LexisNexis® Search by Headnote

1. Within the red **Search** tab on your main lexis.com page, click the **by Topic or Headnote** sub-tab.
2. Choose a topic.

**Find a Legal Topic** (Option 1); just search with key words, such as emissions testing.

OR

**Explore Legal Topics** (Option 2) by drilling down through one of 40+ practice areas to find the precise topic you need. Select an area, Environmental Law for example, and use the "+" buttons to expand any topic within that area.

**Tip:** Your most recent 20 topics are saved automatically. To return to a saved topic, just select it from the **Recently Used Legal Topics** drop-down list.

3. Make your selections in the Search by Headnote box ...

**Jurisdiction**—Choose federal, all states, a specific state, or all available municipalities, counties and townships. Or click the **Select Multiple** ... link and choose the federal/state combination that fits your needs.

**Date**—Choose previous week, month, six months, etc., or enter your own custom date range.

... and click **Retrieve All** to retrieve headnotes and in-depth discussions on your topic.

Now you can view your results.

- A. See which cases are most cited by courts. Sort by Frequently Cited cases. Go to the **Sort By** drop-down box in the upper-left corner of your results screen. Select **Frequently Cited**.
- B. Is the case still good law? The **Shepard's Signal™** indicator offers details. Click it to see the case's full **Shepard's®** report.
- C. Review specific headnotes—and pinpoint similar headnotes. Once you find an on-point headnote, click its **More Like This Headnote** link and move directly to cases with comparable headnotes—closest match first.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Total Research System interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: My Lexis™, Search, Research Tasks, Get a Document, Shepard's®, Alerts, Total Litigator, Transactional Advisor, and Counsel Selector. The search bar contains 'FOCUS™ Terms' and 'Search Within' with a dropdown menu set to 'Original Results (1 - 191)'. Below the search bar, there are options for 'View: Cite | Digest | KWIC | Full | Custom' and 'Sort By: Court/Date'. The search results are displayed for the topic 'All Topics > Environmental Law > Air Quality > Emission Standards' and the request 'Retrieve all headnotes on Emission Standards'. The first result is '1. Massachusetts v. EPA, 549 U.S. 497, 2007 U.S. LEXIS 3785 (U.S., April 2, 2007, Decided)'. The result includes an overview, headnotes (HN1, HN14, HN17, HN18), and a 'More Like This Headnote' link. A red circle 'A' is placed over the 'Sort By' dropdown, a red circle 'B' is placed over the 'OVERVIEW' section, and a red circle 'C' is placed over the 'More Like This Headnote' link.