Finding newspaper articles in Lexis Nexis

Lexis Nexis Academic is an excellent resource for finding full text newspaper articles. It covers a wide variety of publications including major US newspapers such as the New York Times and Washington Post, newspapers from smaller cities like Raleigh as well as international papers, new transcripts and trade papers from business and industry.

It is also updated daily so that you can find very recent articles. And, it’s more convenient to search in one databases rather than Googling all over the web!

Because it includes so many articles it’s easy be overwhelmed with too much information. This tutorial will help you pinpoint what you really need.

To get to Lexis Nexis start at the Libraries’ home page. Click on “databases.” You’ll see Lexis Nexis listed as one of the top databases.

The best way to search for newspapers is to go to the blue boxes on left nav bar to the click on “news.” Then click on “all news” and you’ll get a search box.

Let’s look for information on off shore drilling. In the “select source” type drop down menu, limit to “newspapers” and then click on “search.”

We get a large number of articles-- over 1000 when I’m searching -- so let’s see how we can narrow the results.

On the left nav bar you can open a subject tree. Be aware that this can be slow. As you scroll down the subjects list, one option is “accidents and disasters” so let’s click on that. Now you have fewer articles to choose from.

As you look through the list you’ll see that the number of words are listed for each item. Many articles are very short so may not have much information. This can be one way to choose articles.

Remember that everything in Lexis Nexis is full text. Let’s click on the first article in our list to view one. In the upper right corner you’ll see you have options for printing, emailing or downloading this article.

Let’s go to “edit search” at the top of the page and see some other possibilities. One way to limit a search is by a specific title. In the “select source” box you can type “new york times” for example and retrieve articles from that paper only. [type New York times into box but don’t need to view results]
Or you could focus on offshore drilling in North Carolina. To do that go to the “article location” box at the bottom of the page and choose North Carolina from the drop down menu. [go through these steps and display results] If you’d like to limit to just the News and Observer, the Raleigh Newspaper, you can open the newspapers tree on the left nav bar and click on that title. [just highlight N&O]

Let’s click on edit search again to see some more possibilities. We’ll hit “clear” to start over. Go through these steps

On the search screen you’ll see several more ways to make your search more precise before hitting that search button!

First, you can fill out more search boxes. For example, you can type “off shore drilling” in the first box and then type another term, such as “environment” in the 2nd box. [type in search terms but don’t need to search]

Lexis Nexis also provides precise date searching. Take a look at the drop down menu under “specify date” and you’ll see several possibilities from searching just today to searching a specific date or event in the past. [show box and point to different options]

The “select source” box offers additional options to newspapers such as magazines and news transcripts [show options]

And in the “article type” box you can limit to specific types of articles depending on your topic and what you’re looking for. [check a box as an example – editorials and opinions]

These are just a few of the ways you can use Lexis Nexis to find great information. Remember you can always Ask Us for more help.