

## Finding A Court Case Using Lexis Nexis Academic Tutorial – Transcript

Hi I'm Irva Minerva at the university libraries. I hope this tutorial helps you, but remember you can always ask us if you have questions.

Hi, this is a quick look at searching for court cases using Lexis Nexis Academic for the non-specialist.

First, start at our library homepage, [library.uncg.edu](http://library.uncg.edu), then scroll down the page and choose databases.

And then the Lexis-Nexis academic link

You can find it here or you can click on L, which will bring you to all the databases which begin with L and scroll down, and then click on Lexis Nexis academic

At this point if I try to click into Lexis Nexis from off-campus I would be asked to login using my novell username and password. That's the same information I use for UNCG blackboard and email.

Okay, I've logged in. So now, from the Lexis Nexis Academic homepage, you have several options for legal research. The best options are to use the widget or the US Legal link on the left side of the navigation bar.

This right here is known as the widget. You will start with the widget on the main page. If you don't have a particular court case in mind, you can search by topic. I'm interested in patient rights. I type by topic with quotes around it so that Lexis Nexis will look for my terms together as a phrase, not just patient or rights. The default search is very broad. It will search through federal courts, all levels and through state court systems at the appeals level and higher.

If I had a particular court case in mind, such as Roe v. Wade or Bush v. Gore, I would type the party names in the main pages widget. The first option, by citation, will allow me to search for a particular court case if I have the citation number from a court reporter. Now, to launch my search for patient rights I hit the blue, go button at the bottom of the widget. And you see, I've gotten 303 options. So, I will want to sort these results and I will sort these results by relevance, because that will bring the most relevant results to the top. You might also choose from the specific court, which is located here, on the left. I would like to read the case Thielman v. Lee, so I would click the hyperlinked party names. The party names are used as the title of the case. They're important when it comes time to cite the case. Now, you can also see there's more information here that you can view before clicking on the case. When I see the United States Court of Appeals for the 7<sup>th</sup> circuit, I realize that this particular record refers to a case that occurred in the federal court system. After the name of the court, I see 282f3d478. This is the information about the court reporter for this case. Be sure to know this piece of information for your citations. If you're using APA, MLA, or some other citation style, the library has more information on how to cite legal cases. Basically, for most citation styles you will include the full party names. So, Richard Thielman v. Joseph Lee, etc. and the court reporter information so that 282f3d478 and then the date in parentheses just as the example shown here. Next, after the semicolon, you will see the Lexis Nexis number and then the argued and decided dates. If you click on the hyperlink, you will see more information about the case and the legal opinion. At the top of the record, you will

see the subsequent history and the prior history, which are the history of legal actions related to this particular case. There is a lot of information about the case on this page, but if you are specifically looking for the opinion of the case, you will need to scroll down a little bit before you get to it.

In this instance, the opinion is located about halfway down the page and when you get to it, you can also see which judge wrote the opinion. If I decide I want to email the text to myself, I can use the envelope icon in the top, right corner.

This has been a brief introduction to searching for legal cases using Lexis Nexis Academic. For more information, please remember you can always ask us.