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LexisNexis® Academic URL API Specification

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Introduction

The API acronym stands for “application programming interface.” It’s a mechanism that allows programmers to call functions within another application. In this case, you will be constructing a URL rather than writing a computer program. The application you will send instructions to is the LexisNexis *Academic* service itself, and you will be able to call the following three functions.

1. **Document-level link** – retrieves a specific document.
2. **Title-level link** – opens the Power Search form and populates the source selection options to facilitate user-initiated searching of a specific source.
3. **Search form link** – open any search form in LexisNexis *Academic*.
4. **Canned queries** – runs a predefined search and opens the resulting citation list in LexisNexis *Academic*.

Conventions

URLs constructed according the URL API are composed of a base URL plus a set of parameters and values. In the example URLs given below, curly brackets { } enclose parameters that you must supply. The curly brackets themselves are not used in the actual URLs. It is recommended but not required that you use the plus sign “+” to replace spaces in URLs.

Base URL will be shown with a grey background. It is the part of the URL that does not change. Different base URLs are used depending on the purpose of the URL you are constructing.

Terminology

This specification assumes that you have access to LexisNexis *Academic* and some familiarity with the rules of constructing advanced searches. Unfamiliar terms and search techniques can be looked up in the Help text within the LexisNexis *Academic* service.

Precision: Percentage of the retrieved documents that are true hits. When the URL you construct works properly, you should retrieve only one document and it should be the right one, so precision would be 100%. If the search built in your URL lacks precision, you will retrieve extraneous documents.

Recall: Percentage of appropriate documents available in the database that were retrieved by the search. If you retrieve the one intended document, recall should also be 100%. If the search built in your URL has poor recall, you will fail to retrieve the document even though it is available.

Section 1: Document-Level Link

The URL API allows you to create direct links to specific articles, broadcast transcripts, monographs, and other documents contained in LexisNexis *Academic* provided that you know the LexisNexis constant source identifier (CSI) and enough bibliographic information to construct a precise search. This technique allows you to create links to documents for e-reserve lists, course syllabi, and bibliographies. It also facilitates use of LexisNexis *Academic* as a full-text target by OpenURL article linking services.

The standard format and required elements are shown below. A slightly different method is used for retrieving Company Dossier reports, as illustrated in Section 1, Case 5 and its example.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi={linking csi}
&sr={bibliographic search}+AND+{publication date}
```

Required elements

- **Base URL**
`http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=`
- **Linking CSI** is the unique number that identifies a LexisNexis source. A source may be a specific publication such as the *New York Times* or a third-party database such as *Global Newswire*.
- **Bibliographic Search** is a valid search string for the LexisNexis search engine. It consists of segments names plus values. Query components are joined using the Boolean AND. Consecutive words are searched like phrases (implied adjacency). Consult the “View Connectors” help text on the Power Search form for details on query formulation.
- **Publication date** should be specified using DATE IS operator and any of the following date formats. Use as much detail as you have, and always use 4-digit years.
 - 1999
 - 3/1999
 - 3/5/1999
 - March 1999
 - March 5, 1999 (comma can be omitted)
 - 5 Mar 1999
 - 5 March 1999
 - 1999-04-05 (NISO format)

Using the A-Z List to Build Document-Level Links

Refer to the A-Z Report posted on the “Subscriber Resources” web page at <http://academic.lexisnexis.com/online-services/subscriber-resources/academic.aspx> to determine the “Linking CSI” and the proper segment names to be used in the bibliographic query.

Linking CSI: Note that each title in the A-Z list has its own CSI as well as a Linking CSI. For document-level linking, you should ignore the CSI in Column A. The two CSI numbers are actually the same except in the case of sources coming from a third-party database. You must search for these sources under the CSI for the database rather than that of the individual title. In the illustration below, *News & Notes* must be searched under CSI 8398, which identifies the third-party database, *National Public Radio (NPR)*.

Author and Work Segments: The correct segment names are provided for every source. General guidelines are listed below, with examples taken from the Title List Sample also shown below.

- Newspapers and periodicals such as the *New York Times* use “BYLINE” and “HLEAD”
- Law reviews and journals such as *New York University Environmental Law Journal* use “AUTHOR” and “TITLE”
Note: law reviews can also use the CITE segment instead of AUTHOR and TITLE.
- Broadcast transcripts such as *News & Notes* just use HLEAD
- Legal materials such as *New York Supreme Court Opinions* just use the CITE segment
- Monographs such as *Next Generation Internet Implementation Plan* use BYLINE and PUBLICATION

A-Z Title List Sample

CSI	Title	Author Link	Work Link	Linking CSI	Aggregator
164207	The New York Post	BYLINE	HLEAD	164207	
266732	New York Sun	BYLINE	HLEAD	266732	
173801	New York Supreme Court Opinions from 1829		CITE	173801	
6742	The New York Times	BYLINE	HLEAD	6742	
224655	New York University Environmental Law Journal	AUTHOR	TITLE	224655	
308299	NewCarrier (RDS Business & Industry Selected Documents	BYLINE	HLEAD	210549	RDS Business & Industry Selected Documents
306185	News & Notes (National Public Radio (NPR))		HLEAD	8398	National Public Radio (NPR)
144567	News & Record (Greensboro, NC)	BYLINE	HLEAD	144567	
184905	News & Views (Contemporary Women's Issues)	BYLINE	HLEAD	232318	Contemporary Women's Issues Selected
308300	News (Boca Raton, FL)	BYLINE	HLEAD	210549	RDS Business & Industry Selected Documents
240487	Next Generation Internet Implementation Plan (Policy Paper	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION	239563	Policy Papers

Note: Columns appearing between Title and Author Link have been hidden in the view above.

Document-Level Links Case 1: Newspaper or Periodical Articles

Segments that are used to retrieve articles from newspapers and periodicals

Segment	Description	Notes
BYLINE	Name(s) of article author(s)	Omitting the author's first name will improve recall but may hurt precision. If you do search on the first name, use "w/3" (within 3 words) operator between first and last name to ignore middle initials and word order.
HLEAD	Article title plus section headings plus first paragraph	Tips to improve recall: Use HLEAD rather than the available HEADLINE segment because the cited title may be split between HEADLINE and other segments such as SECTION. Cited titles often do not match document titles verbatim, so truncate the title or select a few keywords from it. Connect non-adjacent words with the "AND" operator. Strip out punctuation and quotation marks, as well as the words "and," "or," and "not."
DATE	Article publication date	Use one of the supported date formats, above.

Example 1.1: Article in *Chronicle of Higher Education* (CSI=171267)

Guterman, Lila and Monaghan, Peter. "Journal Eases Its Policy on Potential Conflicts; Book's Title Becomes a Running Controversy." *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (June 28, 2002): 16.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=BYLINE\(Lila+w/3+Guterman\)+AND+HLEAD\(Journal+Eases+AND+Policy\)+AND+DATE+IS+June+28+2002](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=BYLINE(Lila+w/3+Guterman)+AND+HLEAD(Journal+Eases+AND+Policy)+AND+DATE+IS+June+28+2002)

Example 1.2: Article from *The Seattle Times* (CSI=8206)

Seattle Times Technology Staff. "Download: Bits and Bytes. Microsoft Gossip Travels via Yahoo!" *The Seattle Times*, Business Section (May 21, 2007)

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8206&sr=BYLINE\(Staff\)+AND+HLEAD\(Microsoft+Gossip\)+AND+DATE+IS+May+21+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8206&sr=BYLINE(Staff)+AND+HLEAD(Microsoft+Gossip)+AND+DATE+IS+May+21+2007)

Example 1.3: Movie review from *The New Yorker* (CSI=237442)

Denby, David. "Power Players: 'All the King's Men' and 'The Last King of Scotland'." *The New Yorker* 82.31 (October 2, 2006): 99.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=237442&sr=BYLINE\(David+w/3+Denby\)+AND+HLEAD\(Last+King+of+Scotland\)+AND+DATE+IS+October+2+2006](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=237442&sr=BYLINE(David+w/3+Denby)+AND+HLEAD(Last+King+of+Scotland)+AND+DATE+IS+October+2+2006)

Example 1.4: Story from Global Newswire 3rd-party database (CSI=227171)

Agbebaku, Peter. "Ghana, Egypt Bring Nigeria Down to Earth." *This Day* (February 25, 2007).

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=BYLINE\(Agbebaku\)+AND+HLEAD\(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+to+Earth\)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=BYLINE(Agbebaku)+AND+HLEAD(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+to+Earth)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007)

Document-Level Links Case 2: Law Review Articles

Segments that are used to retrieve articles from law review articles. The most accurate method is to use the standard citation. When this is not possible, use a bibliographic search.

Segment	Description	Notes
CITE	Standard legal citation for a law review article	No additional information is needed if you have the citation. If you do not have the citation, you may use a bibliographic search.
AUTHOR	Article author plus biographical info if any	
NAME	Article author(s)	Usually equivalent to AUTHOR
TITLE	Article title	

Example 2.1: Article in *Georgetown Law Journal* (CSI=7337) using citation
 Petronio, Michael C. “Eliminating the Social Cost of Higher Education: The Third Circuit Allows Social Welfare Benefits to Justify Horizontal Restraints of Trade in *United States v. Brown University*.” *Georgetown Law Journal* (November 1994). Citation: 83 *Geo. L.J.* 189.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=CITE\(83+Geo.+L.J.+189\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=CITE(83+Geo.+L.J.+189))

Example 2.2: Same article using bibliographic search

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=AUTHOR\(Petronio\)+AND+TITLE\(Eliminating+the+Social+Cost+of+Higher+Education\)+AND+DATE+IS+November+1994](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7337&sr=AUTHOR(Petronio)+AND+TITLE(Eliminating+the+Social+Cost+of+Higher+Education)+AND+DATE+IS+November+1994)

Document-Level Links Case 3: Legal Materials

Segments that are used to retrieve legal cases, statutes, and other legal materials.

Segment	Description	Notes
CITE	Standard (Blue Book) citation	This is the only search field required.

Note: For U.S. federal and state cases, it is usually easier to use the general source “*Federal & State Cases, Combined*” (CSI = 6496).

Example 3.1: *Brown v. Board of Education* case, using “U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Lawyers' Edition” source (CSI = 6443) and citation in Blue Book format.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6443&sr=CITE\(347+U.S.+483\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6443&sr=CITE(347+U.S.+483))

Example 3.2: Same case using general source “Federal & State Cases, Combined” (CSI = 6496).

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6496&sr=CITE\(347+U.S.+483\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6496&sr=CITE(347+U.S.+483))

Example 3.3: Maryland Court of Appeals case using general source “Federal & State Cases, Combined” (CSI = 6496).

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6496&sr=CITE\(283+Md.+358\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6496&sr=CITE(283+Md.+358))

Document-Level Links Case 4: Monographs

Segments used to retrieve monographs. Monographs are usually found in third-party databases.

Segment	Description	Notes
PUBLICATION	Title of the monograph	This will normally be the only search field required to retrieve a monograph
AUTHOR	Monograph author	Some monographs will have author
BYLINE	Monograph author	Some monographs will have byline

Example 4.1 Monograph from the Policy Papers collection (CSI=239563)
Kelling, George L. "Broken Windows" and Police Discretion. National Institute of Justice. October 1999.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=239563&sr=PUBLICATION\(Broken+Windows\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=239563&sr=PUBLICATION(Broken+Windows))

Document-Level Links Case 5: Broadcast Transcripts

Television and radio broadcast are usually included under third party databases and are best searched by the name of the show using the SHOW segment. If the show gives titles to each story or report, you can use HLEAD to search on the title. Otherwise, use a full-text search to limit your result set to a unique hit.

Segment	Description	Notes
SHOW	Name of the television or radio show, such as “Larry King Live”	SHOW plus a date is often enough for a unique hit.
HLEAD	Title of the story or report	Not all shows provide such titles

Example 5.1 Transcript of “Fresh Air” on NPR from Burrelle’s Transcripts (CSI=157447)
Interview of Chuck Close on “Fresh Air,” broadcast on NPR, October 26, 2007.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=157447&sr=SHOW\(fresh+air\)+AND+HLEAD\(Painter+Chuck+Close\)+AND+DATE+IS+October+26+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=157447&sr=SHOW(fresh+air)+AND+HLEAD(Painter+Chuck+Close)+AND+DATE+IS+October+26+2007)

Example 5.1 Same broadcast using a full-text search instead of HLEAD.

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=157447&sr=SHOW\(fresh+air\)+AND+Painter+Chuck+Close+AND+DATE+IS+October+26+2007](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=157447&sr=SHOW(fresh+air)+AND+Painter+Chuck+Close+AND+DATE+IS+October+26+2007)

Document-Level Links Case 6: Dossier for a Specific Company

The URL API will allow you to retrieve the Company Dossier report for a specific company using its ticker symbol. Note that the base URL is different for Dossier. This feature allows you to create a durable URL to a Dossier report. If you do not know the ticker, you can find it using Dossier.

Example 6.1 Company Dossier report on Microsoft (ticker = MSFT)

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/accessGW?gw=FC&tr=MSFT
```

Testing and Trouble Shooting Document-Level Links

Validating Queries

The same search logic is used within the LexisNexis *Academic* service as in the URL API, so queries can be tested and refined in the service by selecting the appropriate publication and then entering the text that follows the “sr?” verb in your URL.

Usually, the error message will offer you the option of editing your search. You should always take advantage of this because it reveals how the application is interpreting your URL. If you are not given this option, you can simulate the search by composing a query in the Power Search form against the same source. Either use the Sources tab in LexisNexis *Academic* to locate your source, or insert its Linking CSI into the search-within-source URL described in Section 2, below.

Error Messages

Please verify the source name you have used as it either does not exist or you do not have access to it.

Check the A-Z list to see if the source is contained within a third-party database. See the section on third-party databases, below.

Test and modify your search within the product as described in “Validating Queries,” above.

No documents were found for your search.

Test and modify your search within the product as described in “Validating Queries,” above. Try a broader search with a looser date restriction or fewer search terms. If you suspect that your source is not returning any documents, test it by searching on part of the source title using no date restriction.

Other error messages.

Read the message carefully. It will often explain the problem, for example, a missing connector. Use the Edit option to modify and test the search in the Power Search form.

Special Techniques for 3rd-Party Databases

In almost all cases, the techniques described in Examples 1-4 above will return results equally well for standalone titles and title that are within third-party databases. If a URL to a document within a third-party database is returning too many hits, you can narrow it further using the “PUBLICATION” segment that is found in all third-party databases to specify the title of the newspaper or periodical. Below, the URL from Example 4 has been altered to include the additional search criterion “PUBLICATION(This+Day)” where “This Day” is the title of the newspaper in which the article appears. The same Linking CSI is used in both versions.

Example 1.4 Revisited: Using PUBLICATION Segment

Agbebaku, Peter. "Ghana, Egypt Bring Nigeria Down to Earth." This Day (February 25, 2007).

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=227171&sr=PUBLICATION(This+Day)+AND+BYLINE(Peter+w/3+Agbebaku)+AND+HLEAD(Ghana+Egypt+Bring+Nigeria+Down+AND+Earth)+AND+DATE+IS+February+25+2007
```

Section 2: Title-Level Links

The URL API allows you to open the Power Search form and specify a particular publication that the user can then search. This technique allows you to create title-level (also called journal-level) links from an OPAC or e-Journals service.

By far the easiest way to create a source-level link is simply to copy it from the A-Z Report posted on the “Subscriber Resources” web page at <http://academic.lexisnexis.com/online-services/subscriber-resources/academic.aspx> in the Title Level Links column.

The following discussion explains the elements you will find in the title-level links in the A-Z List and the special approach that is used for titles included under third-party databases.

A-Z Title List Sample

CSI	Title	Source Guide URL	Title Level URL
164207	The New York Post	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
6742	The New York Times	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
237442	The New Yorker	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
257912	The New Zealand Herald	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
257614	The News & Advance, Lynchburg, Va. (N	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
244488	The News (Latina)	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
249359	THE NEWS (NBC News)	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
232885	The News (WorldSources, Inc, Emerging	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/
156860	The News and Observer	http://w3.nexis.com/sources/	http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/

Sample URL (at arrow):

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi=6742>

Title-Level Links Case 1: Single Sources

You can recognize single sources in the A-Z List because the Linking CSI will be the same as the source’s own CSI in Column A. Also, the Aggregator column will be blank. Linking to single sources is very straightforward.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi={linking csi}
```

Required elements

- **Base URL**

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi=
```

- **Linking CSI** is the unique number that identifies a LexisNexis source. A source may be a specific publication such as the *New York Times* or a third-party database such as *Global Newswire*.

Example 2.1 Search within a stand-alone source

Search the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (CSI=168800)

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi=168800>

This link opens the Power Search form with The Seattle Post-Intelligencer populating the Select Source option box (arrow). The form is ready for the user to add search terms and a date restriction.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Academic search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search' and 'Sources'. Below that, there are sub-tabs for 'General', 'News', 'Legal', 'Business', and 'People'. The main search area has three tabs: 'Easy Search™', 'Power Search', and 'General Search'. The 'Power Search' tab is active. Under 'Enter Search Terms', there are radio buttons for 'Terms and Connectors' (selected) and 'Natural Language'. A search input box is present, followed by a 'Search' button. Below the input box, there is a note about using connectors and a link to 'View Connectors...'. There is also a link to 'Add keywords (Index Terms) to your search...'. The 'Select Sources' section has a dropdown menu with 'Seattle Post-Intelligencer' selected. A blue arrow points to this selection. Below the dropdown are links for 'Find More Sources...', '+ View Combined Sources', and 'Search within Document Sections'. There is a '[+] Show' link. The 'Specify Date' section has a dropdown menu set to 'All available dates'. A 'Clear Form' link is at the bottom right.

Title-Level Links Case 2: Third-Party Sources

In the A-Z List, third-party sources will have a Linking CSI that is different from the source's own CSI listed in Column A, and the name of a third-party database will appear in Aggregator column. Links to third-party sources work exactly as do those for single sources, except that you must also specify the name of the individual title using the SHOW source title segment (for broadcast transcripts) or the PUBLICATION source title segment (for just about everything else).

Format

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi={linking csi}&{source title segment}\({source name}\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi={linking csi}&{source title segment}({source name}))

Example 2.2 Search *60 Minutes* under *CBS News Transcript* (CSI= 166768)

[http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi=166768&sterms=SHOW\(60+Minutes\)](http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC00NBGenSrc&csi=166768&sterms=SHOW(60+Minutes))

This link opens the Power Search form with “CBS News Transcripts” populating the Select Source option box and “SHOW(60 Minutes)” populating the Search Terms box. The form is ready for the user to add search terms and/or a date restriction.

Note: To add additional search terms, the user must enter an “AND” following the pre-populated search: SHOW(60 Minutes) AND Andy Rooney.

LexisNexis® Academic

Search Sources

General News Legal Business People

Easy Search™ Power Search General Search

Enter Search Terms Terms and Connectors Natural Language

SHOW(60 Minutes) Search

Use connectors to show relationship of terms, e.g., cat **OR** feline, john **W/2** smith [View Connectors...](#)

[Add keywords \(Index Terms\) to your search...](#)

Select Sources CBS News Transcripts [Find More Sources...](#)

+ View Combined Sources

Search within Document Sections

[+] [Show](#)

Specify Date All available dates

[Clear Form](#)

Section 3: Search Form Link

The URL API allows you to create a direct URL for any search form. This technique allows you to create quick links from your own documentation to appropriate search forms. For example, a syllabus for a business class could link to Company Dossier or a guide to legal research could link to the Shepard's Citation form.

Format

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi={form name}>

Required elements

- **Base URL**

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=>

- **Form Name**

Example 3.1 Open the Federal and State Cases Search Form (name= AC07STCseCmnSrch)

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sf?shr=t&sfi=AC07STCseCmnSrch>

The table below provides the name of each search form in LexisNexis *Academic*. Construct a URL to link to any form by appending its name to the base URL.

Lexis Nexis <i>Academic</i> Search Forms		
Menu Tab	Form Label	Form Name
General	Easy Search	AC00NBEasySrch
General	Power Search	AC00NBGenSrch
News	News	AC01NBSimplSrch
News	Roper Polls	AC01NBRoperRsch
Legal	Law Reviews	AC07STJrnlsSrch
Legal	Federal & State Cases	AC07STCseCmnSrch
Legal	Shepard's Citations	AC07STShepardLegal
Legal	Federal & State Codes	AC07STFedStCodesSrch
Legal	Tax Law	AC07STTaxLawSrch
Legal	Patents	AC07STPatentSrch
Legal	Canadian Cases	AC03STCanCseSrch
Legal	Canadian Legislation	AC03STCanLegSrch
Legal	EU, Commonwealth, and Foreign Nations	AC07STEUCWSrch
Business	Company Dossier	AC02NBCmpDosSrch
Business	Company Profiles	AC02NBCmpSrch
Business	SEC Filings	AC02NBSECFilSrch
Business	Accounting	AC02NBAcctSrch
Business	Country Profiles	AC06NBCounSrch
People	People	AC05NBPeopSrch

Section 4: Canned Queries

The URL API allows you to create a URL that will run a search and display a result set whenever you click on it. Using a special date function, you can build a URL that will always return current results based on today's date.

This is an advanced technique. To build URLs that serve as canned queries, you must first of all be comfortable working with source selection and the Power Search form in LexisNexis *Academic*. You should also be comfortable with the URL API procedures described in the sections above. You can search any source in LexisNexis *Academic* using this method. The examples given here illustrate how to create a canned query using a favorite single source or a group file that contains many individual sources.

Format

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi={linking  
csi}6742&sr={search string}+AND+DATE{date operator}{date function}
```

Required and Optional Elements

- **Base URL** (required)
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=>
- **Linking CSI** (required) is the unique number that identifies a LexisNexis source. A source may be a specific publication such as the *New York Times* or a third-party database such as *Global Newswire*.
- **Search String** (optional) -- unless you are using a narrow date restriction such as a single day, you will want to supply a search string to avoid hitting the 3,000 document limit on search results. The search string must be a valid Boolean search that you have tested in LexisNexis *Academic*. It can combine search terms, Boolean operators, proximity operators, and document segment names.
- **Date Operator** (required) must be an arithmetic operator that works with the LexisNexis date function. Valid operators are =, >, >= ("equal," "after," and "on or after"). If you do not specify a date, most searches will exceed the limit of 3,000 documents returned.
- **Date Function** (required) is the word "CURRDATE" enclosed in percent signs. To write a percent sign in the URL, you must use the special characters "%25." To specify a date before the current date, use the minus sign and the number of days to be subtracted. The entire calculated date should be enclosed in percent signs, as in the follow examples.

Today's date	= %25CURRDATE%25
Yesterday	= %25CURRDATE-1%25
Last 31 days (counting today)	>= %25CURRDATE-30%25

Canned Queries Case 1: Single Sources and Date Restriction Only

You can create a canned query for any single source simply using the source's CSI, as in the document-level and title-level links described above. Look up the linking CSI in the A-Z list.

Example 4.1 Query for all stories in today's *New York Times* (CSI= 6742)

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6742&sr=DATE=%25CURRDATE%25
```

Example 4.2 Query for all stories in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (CSI=171267) in the last 31 days

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

Canned Queries Case 2: Single Sources Using Search Terms

You can refine the types of queries shown in Case 1 by adding search terms. Any search technique that works in LexisNexis Academic can, with a little trial and error, be adapted to the URL API. Everything following the “sr=” operator will be interpreted as a query.

Example 4.3 Canned query for all stories in the “Research” section of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (CSI=171267) in the last 31 days

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=171267&sr=SECTION(research)+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

Example 4.4 Canned query for all stories in “Business” section of *The New York Times* in the past 15 days that LexisNexis has tagged with the Company term for Google, Yahoo, Microsoft, or Apple.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=6742&sr=SECTION(business)+AND+COMPANY(Google+OR+Yahoo+OR+Microsoft+OR+Apple)+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-14%25
```

Canned Queries Case 3: Third-Party Sources

Creating a canned query for a single source contained in a third-party database requires that you specify the source as part of the search. Otherwise the search will return hits from all sources included in the 3rd party database. Look up the “Subordinate Source Field” and “Subordinate Source String” in the A-Z list. In the following example, the SHOW field plus the string “Lou Dobbs” are used to limit the results to a single show in the CNN broadcast transcripts database.

Example 4.5 Canned query for television stories discussing immigrants or immigration on the “Lou Dobbs Tonight” show on CNN (CSI = 8390) in the last 31 days

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/Inacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8390&sr=SHOW(Lou+Dobbs)+AND+(immigrant)+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

Note: the “!” truncation symbol is used to search for all terms beginning with “immigra...”

Canned Queries Case 4: Group Sources

In the example 4.5, we were actually searching across a 3rd-party group source, the CNN transcripts database. We used the SHOW segment to limit the results to a particular show, but we could have just as easily left off that restriction and searched all CNN transcripts. This technique will work for any aggregator CSI listed in the Linking CSI column of the A-Z List.

Example 4.6 Bookmark a search for television stories discussing immigrants or immigration on any show on CNN (CSI = 8390) in the last 31 days

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8390&sr=immigra!  
+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

We can take this approach to the next level using another kind of group source: combined sources created by LexisNexis for the convenience of researchers. There are a great many of these sources. The following examples provide directions for the three very broad sources of general interest.

Example 4.7 Canned query for stories tagged with the index term "Iraq" in Major Newspapers (CSI = 8422) in the last 2 days.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8422&sr=TERMS(Iraq)+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-1%25
```

Example 4.8 Canned query for stories in Magazines (CSI = 8406) that mention Autism and education in the HLEAD segment (headline, section names, and first paragraph) in the last 61 days.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=8406&sr=HLEAD(educat!  
+OR+school)+AND+HLEAD(autis!)+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-60%25
```

Note: the OR operator and the "!" truncation symbol are used to include search term variations.

Example 4.9 Canned query for articles in U.S. and Canadian Law Reviews (CSI = 7327) that mention habeas corpus in the last 31 days.

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7327&sr=habeas+corpus+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

Trouble Shooting Canned Queries

The same trouble shooting techniques described at the end of Section 1 apply to canned queries. Always take advantage of the Edit option in error messages. In addition, please note that the date function is extremely touchy. If you do not use the exact syntax described above, the search will fail. If you suspect a problem with the date function, remove the CURRDATE part of your query and test is using the date dropdown in the Power Search form. If the search works, review the syntax of your date expression. Be sure that you enclose the date expression with the special characters %25 and that you use one of the valid date operators =, >, or >=.

Bookmarking Canned Queries

Once you have created URLs that will re-run your favorite searches, you will want to save them. No special technique is required to copy the URLs into a document such as an MS Word file or an HTML page.

If you want to save these searches as bookmarks in your browser or on a bookmark system such as Delicious or those provided by Yahoo and Google, you will need to copy the URL into the bookmarks rather than using the normal method of saving links from the browser. When you enter a bookmarked search URL into your browser by clicking on it or copying it into the address window, you will notice that LexisNexis Academic transforms the URL. For example, the law review example given above is transformed as follows.

URL format entered in browser:

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/api/version1/sr?shr=t&csi=7327&sr=habe  
as+corpus+AND+DATE>=%25CURRDATE-30%25
```

URL format displayed once the search has been processed:

```
http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/auth/checkbrowser.do? ... etc.
```

When follow your normal procedure to add the link to your browser Favorites or save it to Delicious, you are storing the transformed version of the URL, which will not work properly. To correct it, edit the bookmark properties to replace the URL. In Windows Explorer, this is done through the Favorites > Organize Favorites menu option. Right click on the bookmark to edit its properties.

