

## Research in Chambers Library

### Searching for Law Reviews and Court Cases

When searching for these resources, begin at the library's home page at "library.uco.edu" and click on "Articles/Databases" in the menu bar.

Select LexisNexis from the list of databases.

When the interface opens, notice the quick search for legal cases immediately available. For other types of searching, select International Legal or US Legal from the menu at left.

We will choose US Legal and then select Law Reviews to find scholarly articles written on legal issues.

We will search here for law review articles discussing **executive powers and the declaration of war** by typing the key terms in the search boxes. We will employ the "Or" connector to include "presidential powers" as an alternative term and add "declaration of war" with the "And" connector.

The default search is "Everywhere," which will retrieve articles with the search terms appearing anywhere in the full text of the articles. A useful limiter for this search is the "At Least 5 Occurrences" option.

The limiters by date and topic below the search boxes are optional.

The results screen shows a numbered list of articles. Each entry provides the name of the law review, the date, volume and page number, the title of the article, and the author. The menu at left groups the articles by publication. The drop-down "Show" menu at the top offers options for viewing documents in full or viewing keywords in context with either an expanded list or a KWIC list.

Clicking on the journal title will open the article where any of the search terms first appears.

Clicking on a search term in an expanded list will open the article at that point.

Use the icons in the menu bar to print, email, or save an article.

Return to the list of results or edit the search with the links at the top of the page.

Clicking New Search will return us to the home screen where we will select US Legal again, this time to search for Federal & State Cases. The search screen looks very similar, but the search options differ:

You can search for specific cases by keyword, citation, the name of the plaintiff or defendant, legal topic, the name of the judge, or even one of the attorneys involved in the case. Click the “?” at the side of the search box and then on the link for “Legal Citation Formats” to see the proper formatting of a citation number.

To search by keyword, enter the search terms and leave the default search “Everywhere” in place. This will conduct the broadest search. Limiting by date or jurisdiction is optional.

Again, the results screen shows a numbered list of entries. Each numbered entry gives basic citation information and the status of the case. The menu at left categorizes the list by legal jurisdiction.

Click on the names of the plaintiff and defendant to link to the full text of the case, which will open at the first occurrence of the search terms.

The Case Summary and LexisNexis Headnotes, which identify the key points of the case, are located at the beginning.

Click the Shepardize link at the top of the screen to retrieve a summary of the judicial history of the case, including precedents, overrulings, concurring and dissenting opinions, and appeals.

If you have any difficulties using LexisNexis or need more assistance in your search for information, contact the Reference librarians at Chambers Library.