

Tips for Using the LexisNexis Congressional or Statistical Universe



Click on the Site Map button, located on the top left of the Universe screen. The Site Map section gives a one-screen summary of the contents of the database. This is especially useful in the Academic and Congressional products.

Universal or Wildcard Characters

To make your search more effective, you can search for word variations using the asterisk (*) as a wildcard symbol. An asterisk (*) replaces one letter, it can be used more than once in a word, and can be used anywhere EXCEPT as the first letter of a word. For example, searching on the term wom*n will locate records containing both woman and women.

Use an exclamation mark (!) as a truncation to replace more than one letter at the end of a search term. This symbol is only used once in any word. For example, searching on the term cat! will locate records containing the terms cats, catalog, catamaran, catastrophe, cataract and so on. Take care not to apply the (!) to early in the word, this will lead to unexpected results, as in the previous example.

Check the default dates

The default date range may not be correct for your search. Change the predefined data ranges or select your own, by using the From: & To: boxes.

Step Four: Narrow to a specific date range

Previous six months ▾

From: To:

Logical Operators

AND between terms narrows a search by requiring that all terms be present in each record retrieved. Adding AND to a search generally reduces the number of records retrieved.

OR between terms broadens a search by adding terms to the search query. Use OR to add synonyms or similar terms to a search. Adding OR to a search generally increases the number of records retrieved.

AND NOT - excludes words or phrases from the answer set: Example: IRA AND NOT Irish. Use this connector last a search. It has a negative impact on everything that follows it, and consequently, changes the impact of other logical and proximity operators.

Proximity Operators

Using Proximity operators will result in more relevant search results in full text databases. These operators control the nearness of words.

W/S - finds documents in which specified words or phrases appear within the same sentence

W/P - finds documents in which specified words or phrases appear within the same paragraph

W/# - finds words or phrases in the same document in any order; the maximum word count between the two words/phrases is specified by #, which can be any number up to 255.

Example: motor w/2 voter

PRE/# - finds both words or phrases in the same document. The first word/phrase must be in front of the second word/phrase. The maximum word count between the two words/phrases is specified by #, which can be any number up to 255.

NOT W/S - Both words or phrases may appear in the same document. However, they cannot be in the same sentence.

NOT W/P - Both words or phrases may appear in the same document. However, they cannot be in the same paragraph.

NOT W/# - The first word or phrase is required to appear in the document and the second word or phrase may also be there. However, if the second word/phrase is there, it cannot be within # words of the first word/phrase. # represents any number up to 255.

ATLEAST# - Use this command to determine the minimum number of times a search term should appear in a document. This will help you find more in-depth articles on a topic. The # represents a number between 1 and 255. Example: ATLEAST5 (budget). You can use more than one ATLEAST command in a search. Example: ATLEAST5 (budget) and ATLEAST5 (defense).

Connectors have an order of priority. They operate in the following order:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. OR | 6. NOT W/S |
| 2. W/# | 7. W/P |
| 3. PRE/# | 8. NOT W/P |
| 4. NOT W/# | 9. AND |
| 5. W/S | 10. AND NOT |

Use Parentheses To Alter Connector Order

Sometimes the hierarchy of the connectors impacts your search in a negative way and totally changes your search from what you intended. In these instances, use parentheses to rectify the situation.

Display formats

Document List, the default display, provides basic bibliographic information.

Search Terms: health w/5 care w/5 reform

FOCUS™ [Search Within Results](#)

[Document List](#) [Expanded List](#) [KWIC](#) [Full](#)

Tag for delivery [Clear](#) ▶ Sorted by **Document Type**

[Document](#) (10)
[Hearing](#) (406)
[Legislative History](#) (8)
[Print](#) (64)
[Report](#) (24)

Expanded List displays a numbered list with each search word in context surrounded by approximately five words.

[Document List](#) [Expanded List](#) [KWIC](#) [Full](#) Documents 1 - 512

Tag for delivery [Clear](#) ▶ Sorted by **Document Type**

[Document](#) (10)
[Hearing](#) (406)
[Legislative History](#) (8)
[Print](#) (64)
[Report](#) (24)

1. [Blueprint for New Beginnings: A Responsible Budget for America's Priorities](#), CIS-NO: 2001-H920-5, CIS February, 2001, DOC-TYPE: Document, DOC-NO: H. Doc. 107-45, DATE: Feb. 28, 2001, LENGTH: iii+20 Oversized., SUDOC: PREX2.2:B62, CIS/Index
... law revisions, and education and **health care reform** proposals. Includes: a. ...

KWIC Displays documents in the "Key Words In Context" format, shows each of the search terms surrounded by a window of text of approximately 20 words. The KWIC format helps you quickly determine whether a document is applicable to your research topic.

TITLE: National Health Care: How Can the Federal Government Increase Access to Health Care to U.S. Citizens? Debate Topic for High Schools, 1993-1994

SUMMARY:

... grouped in sections corresponding to the three debate propositions:

General Materials (p. 1-141). Includes:

- a. GAO, "**Health Care Reform**" Dec. 1992 (p. 8-26).
- b. Bush, George, "Economics of Health Care" excerpt from Economic Report of the President, ...

... Health Care/CHAMPUS Management Initiatives" 1991, with glossary (p. 170-192).

- e. Fuchs, Beth C. (CRS), "**Health Care Reform: Mandated Employer-Provided Coverage**" Feb. 2, 1993 (p. 197-201).
- f. Fuchs, Beth C. (CRS), "**Health Care Reform: Single-Payer Approaches**" Mar. 8, 1993 (p. 209-221).
- g. Fuchs, Beth C.; and Merlis, Mark (CRS), "**Health Care Reform: Tax System Approach**" Feb. 19, 1993 (p. 222-231).
- h. Fuchs, Beth C.; and Sokolovsky, Joan (...

... 381). Includes:

- a. Clinton, William J., "Vision of Change for America" Presidential economic policy report excerpts on **health care** Feb. 17, 1993, with tables (p. 257-297).
- b. CBO, "Projections of National Health Expenditures by Source of ...

Other Features

Searches can be sorted in different fashions depending on the database.

Search Terms: health w/5 care w/5 reform

FOCUS™

Jump to Documents 1-25

Document List Expanded List KWIC Full

Tag for delivery | Sort by:

Search results or full text can be sent to any valid email address.

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Michele McNelly
 Government Documents Dept
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