

Lexis® Library Connectors Guide

How to Search

The main search boxes on the home page and practice area pages work well on a natural language search basis, so please feel free to type in key words or phrases into these boxes to source relevant results across your subscriptions.

However if you want to perform a more detailed search using the specific content type search forms on LexisLibrary then your search would benefit from the use of connectors.

For example searching for **fraud and online banking** will return results where each document will contain **fraud** as a keyword and **online banking** as a phrase.

If it is your intention to search for a phrase e.g. **Human Rights** then the default behaviour of the search will bring back results that mention **Human Rights** as keywords that are next to each other in every result.

If you intend to search with keywords that do not occur **next to each other** your search would benefit from the use of connectors. For example searching for fraud and online banking will return results where each document will contain fraud as a keyword and online banking as a phrase.

Connectors and wildcards enable you to conduct more efficient and effective searching on LexisLibrary content search forms. The key connectors are outlined below.

and

Using **“and”** between keywords returns results that mention both keywords but those keywords are not consecutive i.e. not next to each other. **And** is a way of searching loosely and getting more results.

Example: armed robbery **and** weapon finds both the phrase armed robbery and the word weapon anywhere in the same document.

or

Using **“or”** between keywords allows you to list synonyms, acronyms and alternative forms of expression. Using the **or** connector brings back more results i.e. it broadens the search that you are performing.

Example: lawyer **or** counsel finds either the word lawyer or the word counsel.

w/n

Using for example **“w/5”** between keywords returns results that contain both keywords in the search, but those keywords are no more than 5 words apart. You can enter any number between 1 and 255 after w/.

Example: dismissal **w/5** constructive finds dismissal within 5 words or fewer of constructive, regardless of which word appears first.

w/s

w/s stands for **“within sentence”**. Using w/s between keywords returns results that contain the selected keywords in the same sentence. It is a fairly precise way of searching and of limiting the scope of your results. Searching with w/s will return less results than using and / or.

Example: cloning **w/s** legislation finds cloning within the same sentence as legislation.

Note: The w/s connector cannot be combined with the w/n connector.

w/p

w/p stands for **“within paragraph”**. Using w/p between keywords returns results that have paragraphs which contain the keywords being specified. This connector will not bring back results that have paragraphs which don't have the chosen keywords present. Using w/p will bring back less results than using and /or.

Example: unfair **w/p** dismissal finds unfair within the same paragraph as dismissal.

Note: The w/p connector cannot be combined with the w/n connector.

- ! Truncation** Using a “!” after the root of a word will return all words’ forms.
 Example: acqui! will find acquire, acquires, acquired, acquiring, and acquisition.
 Note: Words that work best with ! are those that are unique in their truncated form. For example, if you search fir! (to retrieve **fired, firing or fires**), your results will also include **first, firm**, etc.
- * Wildcard** Using the wildcard symbol * (an asterisk) instead of a letter or letters in a word will allow the letter replaced with * to be replaced with any letter.
 Example: wom*n will find both woman and women. The wildcard (*) is particularly useful if you are unsure of the spelling of a particular word or name. You can also use multiple wildcards in a single word.
 Example: int**net finds both internet and intranet. Using wildcards at the end of a word will truncate a word for a specific number of characters. Example: Transplan*** finds **transplant, transplants** or **transplanted**, but will not find transplantation, transplanting, etc.

You can create more complex searches by chaining multiple keywords and connectors together e.g. keyword and keyword or keyword w/p keyword. In this way you can refine your searches as you proceed and observe the effects the connectors have on your search.

If you require our Content Support team to assist you when you are trying to structure a search please dial 0845 370 1234 (calls cost 7/p min) and select the content support option.

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