

LexisNexis and Westlaw Compared

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Functionality	LexisNexis feature	Westlaw feature
Phrase Searching (Terms & Connectors)	“quote marks” not needed	“quote marks” needed
Phrase Searching (Natural Language)	Use “quote marks ” as Mandatory Terms to force phrase; Use a comma if you don’t want a phrase	should use “quote marks ”
Hyphens	hyphenated word is seen as two words	use hyphen to search for compound terms
OR	must include OR (it is not implied); words not separated by “or” (or another connector) will be read as a phrase	OR is implied by a space
Date Restriction	available	available
Search by Parts of Document (Natural Language)	Go to Mandatory Terms and restrict Within a Segment	Select Add Other Restrictions
Search by Parts of Document (Terms & Connectors)	Select Restrict Search Using Document Segments	Fields
Universal Character (W/L) / Wildcards (L/N)	wom*n automatically retrieves women and woman	wom*n automatically retrieves women and woman
Root Expander (W/L) / Wildcards (L/N)	acqui!	acqui!
Plurals	Use singular to find most plurals Singular won’t find words ending in -us, -is, or irregular words (child/children)	Use singular to find plurals for all regular and most irregular terms; in doubt, use a * or !
Viewing Results	Cite, KWIC , Full, Custom	Results List; Term & Doc arrows; in N/L can browse by Best Term
Narrowing Results	Use FOCUS feature within retrieval set by adding terms & connectors	Use LOCATE feature within retrieval set by adding terms & connectors