

Time and Control with Terms & Connectors

Using Terms & Connectors for Case Law Research

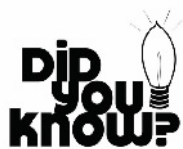
Terms & Connectors is an incredibly effective way to find case law on LexisNexis® in 3 simple steps:

1. Choose your database;
2. Follow the TRAC Method; and
3. Narrow your results using Focus™

Step 1: Choosing an Appropriate Database for Case Law Research

RULE OF THUMB:

Choose the narrowest database that will return controlling law for your question.



The Science of Segments

You can, and should, limit your search results using Segments and Date Restrictions.

For example: If you only want opinions written by Justice Scalia, you could use the WRITTENBY segment, type Scalia, and click Add.

Step 2: The TRAC Method

T - Terms (enter one or more relevant terms)

Hint: You're looking for legal terms of art, not factual terms.

R - Root Expander (Erase all suffixes and replace them with a Root Expander (!))

A - Associated Terms (add synonyms and related legal concepts)

C - Connectors (add connectors to create your search).

AND - Requires that both terms are included in all search results. (Ex. A and B - will find both A and B in every result)

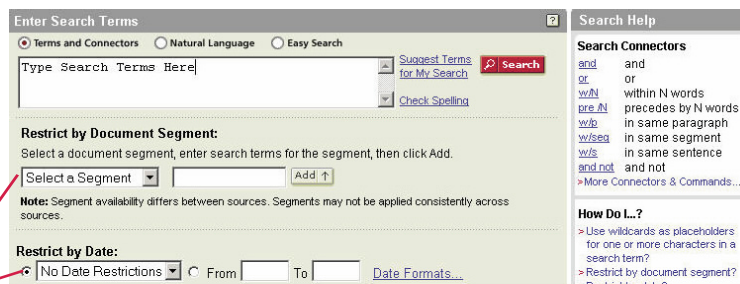
OR - Requires that either term is included in all search results. (Ex. A or B - will find either A or B in every result)

w/s - Will find the terms wherever they occur in the same sentence. (Ex. A w/s B will find all results where A and B are in the same sentence)

w/p - Will find the terms wherever they occur in the same paragraph. (Ex. A w/p B)

w/N - Where N equals any integer between 1 and 255.

Will find every result where A appears within N words of B. (Ex. A w/25 B will find every result where A appears within 25 words of B).



Step 3: Narrow Your Results Using Focus™

If you follow the TRAC method, you're likely to get quite a few results. You can narrow them down using the FOCUS™ bar. Just add more terms to the list and your set of results will be narrowed down to only those items that include the new terms.

