

Using Lexis+ for English law

This guide will help you use Lexis+ to find cases, legislation and journal articles

What is Lexis+?

Lexis+ is an online legal database, which the library subscribes to. It allows law students to access the cases, legislation, journal articles and legal commentary that you need to succeed in their modules. You can search for something (e.g. a case) and then quickly jump from that to other related documents. It's updated very quickly, so you can be confident of finding up-to-date materials, even in rapidly changing areas of law. Lexis+ is widely used across the legal sector, so gaining confidence and skills in using it will be helpful beyond university.



Useful videos:

[What are Lexis+ and Westlaw?](#)

[Lexis+ UK overview](#)

Accessing Lexis+

Go to <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law#lexislibrary> and click on 'how to access Lexis+' to see the link. You may be prompted for your student number and password.

It is important you access Lexis+ through the library website rather than by Googling it otherwise you will not have access to all the content the library pays for access to.

The Lexis+ homepage contains a simple search box and also tabs below, allowing you to choose a type of content you want to look at. The search box defaults to searching everything. Use the drop down next to the search box to pick a specific type of content to search for e.g. cases.

Tip: You can return to the Lexis+ homepage from anywhere in Lexis+ by clicking on the logo in the top left.

Tip: Lexis+ has a dark background with light text. If you would prefer a light background with dark text, use the day/night toggle at the very top of the page.

How to find cases

Use the long search bar on the Lexis+ homepage. By default, this box searches everything. Click on all on the right of the box and choose 'cases' from the dropdown.



You can search for a case by the names of the parties, by its citation. You can also search for a topic if you don't have a particular case in mind.

If you get a long list of results, you can use the filters or the 'search within results' box down the left hand side of the results screen to narrow down your search.

At the top right of your search results, you can change how the results are sorted e.g. by date or by relevance. To read a document, simply click on the link in the results list.

If you prefer to browse rather than search, the left of the cases search page gives you this option. Click on *browse*, pick the series of law reports you are interested in and then just keep narrowing it down until you reach the case you need.

Tip: Down the right hand side of a case, look for the 'related documents' box. Here you can jump to related journal articles and other cases. This is a good way to find new materials for your coursework research. You also jump to relevant commentary this way, mostly from [Halsbury's Laws of England](#).



Useful videos:

[Finding a case when you have its name and citation](#)

[Searching cases and legislation](#)

How to find legislation

Use the long search bar on the Lexis+ homepage. By default, this box searches everything. Click on all on the right of the box and choose 'legislation' from the dropdown.



Type the name and year of the act in the box (e.g. Human Rights Act 1998) and click search. If you want to see a particular section, you can add that to your search e.g. Human Rights Act 1998 s.12

Click on the Act or section in the results list to open it up.

If you don't know the name of the legislation you want, you can type key legal words or phrases into the long search box.

You can also browse a list of all UK Acts. From the homepage, click on *content* then *legislation* then *Acts*.



Useful videos:

[Finding UK legislation](#)

[Searching cases and legislation](#)

How to find journal articles

Use the long search bar on the Lexis+ homepage. By default, this box searches everything. Click on all on the right of the box and choose 'books and journals' from the dropdown.



Tip: If you're searching for a phrase, use speechmarks to glue the words together e.g. "artificial intelligence" or "joint enterprise"

In your list of results, tick 'journals' in the filters down the left hand side.

If you get a long list of results, you can use some other filters to narrow down your search e.g. by practice area or by date range.

At the top right of your search results, you can change how the results are sorted e.g. by date or by relevance. To read a document, simply click on the link in the results list.

As well as full text articles, LexisLibrary also provides **summaries** of a large range of other articles.

If you find a summary of an article that you'd like to find the full text of, just treat it like an article on your reading list. Advice about finding articles when you have a reference can be found in the [Finding a journal article](#) help guide (PDF).

Getting help and finding out more

More online information can be found on the Law help pages, at www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law

If you need any help with finding or using library resources for law please contact **Charlie Brampton** (Academic Liaison Librarian) using the contact details below.

Email: c.brampton@brookes.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 483077

Headington Library, JHB 112