LexisNexis Academic offers outstanding coverage of News, Business, Legal and Medical topics as well as an excellent Reference section. Coverage is almost entirely full text. The use of special search technology allows focused searching with keywords or phrases, eliminating the need for subject lists. To get started: Click the Databases link on the library home page [http://library.indstate.edu] and then click on LexisNexis Academic.

The home page (see right) offers quick search options in News, Case Law and Company Information. It is not possible to limit searches using quick search so the quick news search will tend to return many results. The default sort is by relevance; so pertinent articles will be listed first on the search results list.

Both the Get a Case and the Company Information searches allow results to be focused by using the focus field (below):

Search Terms: microsoft

This field allows articles meeting more specific search criteria to be selected from within the current result set. Although not an option in the Quick News search, the focus field is present in most other LexisNexis searches. Whenever searches are narrowed this way a new focus field appears thus permitting further targeting of results. To find legal cases by party name, only one field needs to be used and order is not important. For instance, if you wish to find court cases involving Microsoft you can enter _____ v. Microsoft or Microsoft v. _____. Both will return the same results.

The Guided News Search allows focused searching in specific news categories such as General News, Today’s News, U.S. News, World News, News Wires, News Transcripts, Arts and Sports News, Non-English Language News, Business News, Legal News University News and Medical News. For each search option, a News Source category must be selected. Within each Source category it is possible to search only specific publications by clicking on the Source List link. Mark your choice(s) then hit the Paste to Search button. Your selection(s) will automatically be entered in the Step Five: Search this publication.
title(s) box. For instance, want to search Indiana newspapers? Under **Step One: Select a news category** select U.S. News. Under **Step Two: Select a news source** select Indiana News Sources.

Click **Source List** if you want to choose a particular paper. Otherwise, all Indiana newspapers in LexisNexis will be searched.

The **Business** section allows users to search **Business News, Industry & Market** (which allows searches for news in particular industries), **Accounting, Company Financial, Compare Companies** (which allows retrieval of information about companies that meet certain criteria – e.g. all companies in the U.S. with sales of 8 to 10 billion dollars per year), **SEC Filings** (Securities and Exchange Commission reports), and **Directories** (which searches for business events, trade shows, business opportunities, etc.). Below the search screen in each business subsection is a Tips list. This list explains the source selections for each subsection and gives search tips.

The **Legal Research** section retrieves **Legal News, Case Law** (which searches Federal and State legal cases and well as retrieving cases in areas of law by topic), **Codes and Regulations, International Legal Materials, Patent Research**, and legal **Career Information**.

The **Medical** section allows searching in **Medical News, Medical and Health Journals, and Medical Abstracts**. A Medical Abstracts search enables searches to be restricted to particular sub fields of medicine, and even to Veterinary Medicine!

The **Reference** section is excellent for quick facts and has a **World Almanac** as well as **Country and State Profiles, Quotations, Polls and Surveys** and **Biographical Information** (which doesn’t have biographies per se but calls up related news stories, obituaries, business related stories, etc.).

**SEARCH STRATEGIES** – Think of LexisNexis Academic as many different databases with the same search structure for each database. It is important to remember that it is not possible to search all of the LexisNexis Academic database with a single search. Searches are restricted to whatever subdivision of the database the search form appears in or whatever option is chosen in the **category pulldown box**. It might be necessary to search several sections of LexisNexis in order to find all of the sources relevant to a topic. For instance, a search in the **General News** section will return many general news stories about Anorexia, but a search in the **Medical News** section will return news stories that do not appear in the **General News** section (see picture at right). Different search categories will have different source options (see picture at left). It may be necessary to search more than one type of source, depending on the type of information you need.
FOCUSING SEARCHES - LexisNexis Academic uses its own proprietary search technology so it is generally not necessary (or very productive) to use techniques such as subject searching that are important in other databases. There are a few tricks that can help, however.

First of all, make sure that the search is sorted by relevance. If it isn’t, click the “relevance” link in the Sort by: option (see right). This basically sorts by subject.

In addition, you can use the at least limiter to specify that the search will return only documents that mention a keyword a specified number of times, as in the example to the right:

The strategy here is that documents that mention antitrust at least five times in the headline and lead paragraphs in association with Microsoft will be more strongly focused on the Microsoft Trial than items that mention antitrust less frequently. If this returns too few results, the search can be modified to search for atleast5(antitrust) in full text.

The length limiter can be used to search for articles equal to or greater than a certain length. The example shown at right returns articles containing Microsoft and at least 5 mentions of antitrust that are also at least 500 words long. This will return major stories and avoid instances of brief news items that provide only cursory content. The length limiter can only be used in a Focus box. The At Least and Length limiters are not available in the Quick News Search.

VIEWS, PRINTING AND E-MAILING - The search results page allows four different views; Document List, Expanded List, KWIC and Full. In Documents List, only the link to the full-text article along with some thumbnail information is shown. Expanded List view gives the full-text link along with part or all of each sentence that contains your search term(s). KWIC view is similar to Expanded List except that it shows a larger part of the paragraph surrounding the search term(s). Full view gives the full text of the article. You can print and e-mail from each of the four different view options. Document List and Expanded List will print and e-mail only citations. KWIC and Full views print and e-mail everything seen in those views (partial or full text). When e-mailing, all four views send their contents in the body of the e-mail message.

GETTING HELP WHILE IN LEXISNEXIS - The How do I… link in the LexisNexis main menu offers concise answers to the most popular searches in each section of the database. The Help link offers more detailed information.

GETTING HELP FROM THE ISU LIBRARY: At any point, visit the help links on the library’s main page (see right) or visit the information desk for more details.