Digging into the Details of HeinOnline Searching

By Ed Craig,
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While most legal researchers consider only the two behemoths of the legal online research world, Westlaw and LexisNexis, when doing online research, there are other legal databases that can be just as beneficial, or more so, in numerous circumstances—one of these is HeinOnline. Admittedly, searching on HeinOnline is not as straightforward as either of the two larger services, but this service is worth a researcher’s notice and the efforts necessary to learn the research scheme. It provides a wealth of legal documentation which cannot be found on the other two prominent computer-assisted legal research services; of particular note are the many older pre-1990 law review issues that Westlaw and LexisNexis have not included in their database content. This article will discuss some of the differences in creating a search argument that commonly inhibit the legal researcher in using this database service.

Connectors

HeinOnline uses the usual Boolean operators, but they must be in all capital letters.

Therefore, you should not use small case – or and not.

Instead, use OR AND NOT.

The exclamation mark is not a means of truncation on HeinOnline; instead, it can be used in place of NOT. A dash (-) can also be used in place of NOT. In either case, if you are using special characters in your search, it must have a space before the special character, but not after.

Proximity Searching

In using HeinOnline, the researcher has no direct means of doing a “numbered” proximity search linking a word phrase with another term or phrase (such as “european commission” and “microsoft” within 10 words) because it only performs single term proximity searching. Instead, you must include all of the

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LAW LIBRARY SCHEDULE
MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:00 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT
FRIDAY
7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SATURDAY
9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.
SUNDAY
1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT

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terms in one search phrase (such as “European Commission Microsoft”~10) to ensure that all of the terms will fall within the proximity that you have dictated.

Additionally, HeinOnline has added a new search option that allows you to search for terms in the same sentence (i.e. jury w/s discrimination), same paragraph (i.e. jury w/p discrimination), or same segment (i.e. jury w/seg discrimination). Hein indicates that a such a segment search locates terms that are within roughly 100 words of each other.

Truncation

When writing a search argument, many researchers will wish to pull up documents that include several or all versions of a keyword; the root term can have numerous forms that typically reflect time, number or possession. In some databases, pickup of plural suffixes of a root term can be assumed—though not the case with HeinOnline. The two “wildcard” search terms are the following:

? The question mark symbol is used to allow the system to add a single character to the root term in the location of the symbol. As an example, “wom?n” will bring up any document with the term “women” or “woman”.

* The asterisk symbol is used to allow the system to add zero or more characters to the end of a root term at the location of the symbol. As an example, “challeng*” will bring up any document with any of the following terms: challenge, challenges, challenging, challenger or challenged.

Term Boosting

A capability that HeinOnline provides that neither LexisNexis or Westlaw allows is the ability to “boost” a term in the search argument. Boosting allows you to state a preference of one term over another in your search argument, allowing the database to show priority in the results listing that display the preferred term the greatest number of times. How is this done? If you were looking for articles discussing the need for Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s recusal as a result of her showing bias against Donald Trump, you would likely want to see those articles first that most commonly use the word recusal, since there is likely to be an entire range of articles on Ruth Bader Ginsburg in general. To accomplish this, you will place an emphasis on the desired word with a caret and a number (between 1 and 4) after it, such as:

Ginsburg AND recusal^1

The displayed results will give you those results which emphasize the term “recusal”, though still include Ginsburg somewhere in the body of the document.

If you have any questions about any of these features or any HeinOnline issue, please contact a reference librarian.

Need a break from studying? Try our coloring station on the Lower Level!

Take a Coloring Break!
Librarian Updates

Our librarians are fortunate to have the opportunity to attend professional meetings and to represent the Law Library on different committees. Listed below are some of the activities in the past few months, along with committee participation for this school year.

Della H. Darby attended the LYRASIS Member Summit held at the Nashville Public Library, October 24-25. The theme was Experiments in Innovation and focused on the challenges and upcoming trends in the fields of knowledge management, sustainable programs, and community impact.

Ed Craig, Keta Harmon, Becky Hutto and Greg Laughlin attended the Law Libraries Association of Alabama meeting on October 26, 2018, at Balch & Bingham here in Birmingham. Cumberland’s own Professor Walthall was one of the speakers at this meeting, and his presentation was on Alabama’s first Constitution. This was especially interesting in relation to the state of Alabama celebrating their bicentennial. Keta Harmon is secretary to this organization and Ed Craig is treasurer.

For this academic year, librarians who make up parts of Samford University committees include:

Ed Craig and Greg Laughlin, members of Samford’s Faculty Senate Committee;

Della Darby, Chair of Samford’s Committee on Elections; member of Samford’s Committee on Academic Technology and Learning;

Leigh Jones, member of Samford’s Academic Affairs Committee;

Grace Simms, member of Samford’s Campus Life Committee.

And finally, on November 5, 2018, four members of the Law Library staff received their service award from Samford University. Charlie Coleman, Law Library Assistant, 5 year award; Ed Craig, Reference Librarian, 30 year award; Alice Bullington, Administrative Assistant, 35 year award; and Becky Hutto, Cataloging Librarian, 40 year award. Congratulations to each!

Humor in the Law

Finals are coming up. Are you tired of reading the Study Aids? HeinOnline provides access to a variety of titles, including books on the lighter side of the law. Here are links to just a few, and the last title listed is a treatise in print we have in the Law Library.

Legal briefs & bytes : enlightening and amusing insights on the law, compiled and edited by John C. Szarko, Ph.D.

Bench and bar : a complete digest of the wit, humor, asperities, and amenities of the law, with portraits and illustrations / by L.J. Bigelow.

Quote it completely! : world reference guide to more than 5,500 memorable quotations from law and literature / selected by Eugene C. Gerhart.


Word of the Year

Oxford Dictionaries has chosen “toxic” as its international word of the year, selecting it from a shortlist that included such politically inflected words as “gaslighting,” “incel” and “techlash.” According to Katherine Connor Martin, the company’s head of U.S. dictionaries, the word was chosen less for statistical reasons, than for the sheer variety of contexts in which it has been used.

The dictionary defines "toxic" as "poisonous" with its roots derived from the medieval Latin term "toxicus," meaning poisoned or imbued with poison. Data from Oxford Dictionaries show a 45 percent increase in the number of times people have looked up the word on its website.

Sources:

Resources for Career Planning and Management
by Leigh A. Jones, Evening/Weekend Reference Librarian
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In a tight job market, it can sometimes be difficult to determine the right road to take when pursuing a legal career. The following is a list of books aimed at helping readers to plan and manage their employment journeys through the law. All of the books listed can be found within the collection of the Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library.

Careers in Health Law
(Lawrence E. Singer, Megan Bess & Kristin Finn)
Call Number: KF299.M43 S58
ISBN: 97816272727131
Advice given to attorneys seeking to find opportunities in a field of constant change.

Careers in International Law
(Salli Swartz)
Call Number: KZ1238.U55 C37
ISBN: 9781614387459
Discusses the scope of possibilities within various specialties.

Careers in Sports Law
(Marc Edelman & Geoffrey Christopher Rapp)
Call Number: KF299 .S66 E34 2014
ISBN: 9781627227780
Investigates the steps needed to maximize the chances of landing a sports-related job.

Entertainment Careers for Lawyers
(William D. Henslee)
Call Number: KF299.E58 H4
ISBN: 9781627222327
Helps to provide a better understanding of the realities of working with actors, writers, musicians, production companies, and more.

Flying Solo
(K. William Gibson)
Call Number: KF298 .F34 2014
ISBN: 9781614388142
A comprehensive guide to handling the ins and outs of running a solo law practice.

Getting Started As a Real Estate Attorney
(Joseph Fortunato)
Call Number: KF299.R43 F67 2016
ISBN: 9781634254953
With a strong focus on residential transactions, focuses on the practice areas within this field.

How to Start and Build a Law Practice
(Jay G. Foonberg)
Call Number: KF315 .F6 2004
ISBN: 1590312473
A comprehensive guide to building and managing a law practice.

Landing a Federal Legal Job
(Richard L. Hermann)
Call Number: KF299.G6 H473
ISBN: 978161632835
Offers advice for making intelligent decisions when trying to find a job in this area of law.

A Lawyer’s Guide to Networking
(Susan R. Sneider)
Call Number: KF316.5 .S64 2016
ISBN: 9781634253888
A guidebook for attorneys wishing to build their careers through networking.

Life after Law
(Liz Brown & Gloria Larson)
Call Number: KF297 .B725
ISBN: 9781937134648
Provides specific career advice concerning alternative careers for lawyers.

Managing Your Legal Career
(Richard L. Hermann)
Call Number: KF297 .H45
ISBN: 9781604429008
Offers specific information on how to compete in a tight job market.

Personal Branding in One Hour for Lawyers
(Katy Goshtasbi)
Call Number: KF316.5 .G67
ISBN: 9781627221597
A guide to helping attorneys develop personal brands that allow them to distinguish
themselves from their competitors.

Roadmap
(Neil W. Hamilton)
Call Number:
KF297 .H29 2015
ISBN: 9781627229906
A template for law students to use in order to help them find employment after graduation.

The resources found in this list were part of a library resource display called “Career Planning.” A virtual representation of that display can be found at: https://samford.libguides.com/lawlibraryresourcedisplays.

To Mojave or not to Mojave?

by Grace Simms,
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For Mac users, there is often a desire to update to the latest OS as soon as it is available.

You're much better off to wait a bit. Wait for bugs to be worked out. More often than not, an update to the newly released OS will be available shortly. I recommend updating after an update to the OS upgrade is available.

Also, not all iPhones, iPads, and Macs can handle the newest OS. Your device may be able to install it, but that doesn't mean the device will handle it well. Over the years, I've seen many devices suffer from slowness or crash completely after an OS update.

The latest Mac OS is Mojave. If your laptop is older, carefully consider if you need it. If you want to install it - please run a Time Machine backup first of your laptop so that you may revert to it if necessary.

If you'd like to go back to an earlier OS and don't have a Time Machine backup - please let me know. I have the last ten Mac operating systems.
When we get closer to exam time, I wouldn't update the OS. If all is working well and Exam4 will run on it, leave it alone until the holiday break when you have more time. If you have an older OS and need a slightly newer one to work with Exam4, I can help with that without having to upgrade your Mac to the latest OS - Mojave.

The version of Exam4 that will work with Mojave should be available to download at www.exam4.com on November 19th.

Also, for exams - I recommend changing a few settings. These settings are not how you want to permanently keep your Mac.

If you don't have Mojave, click on the Apple icon in the upper left corner of the screen, choose System Preferences, select App Store. Uncheck Automatically check for updates. Be sure the boxes below that are not checked as well.

For Mojave, click on the Apple icon in the upper left corner of the screen, choose System Preferences, select Software Update. Be sure the box isn't checked.

Then click on Advanced. Be sure the boxes there aren't checked as well.
After exams are over, enable the choices you want updated automatically.

If you need help with the above or anything else, please contact me at glsimms@samford.edu (Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian).

Director’s Briefs
From Greg Laughlin
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Monday, November 19, we will begin restricted access for the final exam period, with extended hours to begin on Monday, November 26, as shown below.

If you do not have a sticker on the back of your student ID that is a red circle with the words "Library Use Only" across the face, please stop at the front desk and get one.

Exam/Extended Fall Hours 2018

Monday, November 26 to Friday, November 30
7:00 am - Midnight
Saturday, December 1 & 8
9:00 am - Midnight
Sunday, December 2 & 9
1:00 pm - Midnight
Weekdays: Monday, December 3 to Wednesday, December 12
7:00 am - Midnight
Thursday, December 13
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday, December 14
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Saturday, December 15 to Sunday, December 16 - Closed
Monday, December 17 to Friday, December 21
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, December 22 to Tuesday, January 1 - Closed
Wednesday, January 2, to Friday, January 4 -
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday, January 5 to Sunday, January 6 - Closed
Monday, January 7, 2019
Resume Normal Hours

All schedules are subject to change based on University decisions to close during times we currently list as open.

Restricted Access during Final Exam Period

Beginning at the opening of the Law Library on Monday, November 19 through 2pm Thursday, December 13 the Law Library will be closed to all but the following patrons in order to accommodate the study needs of law students during their exam period:

1. Cumberland School of Law students, faculty and staff.
2. Samford University paralegal students.
3. Samford University faculty and staff.
4. Lawyers and other professionals who are routinely given access to the Law Library for their work.

The following will be permitted access only upon prior approval following a request made to the Law Library director:

Other Samford University students who need immediate access to an information resource that is only available within the Law Library.

IN ORDER TO ENFORCE THESE RESTRICTIONS, ALL PATRONS, INCLUDING LAW STUDENTS, WISHING TO ENTER THE LAW LIBRARY WILL BE SUBJECT TO HAVING TO PRESENT IDENTIFICATION BEFORE DOING SO.

IN REQUIRING ID, THE LIBRARY DESK WORKERS ARE FOLLOWING MY DIRECTIONS. ANY COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ME, AS I HAVE GIVEN THEM NO DISCRETION IN ENFORCING THIS POLICY.

DURING THE PERIOD OF RESTRICTED ACCESS, ALL PATRONS ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP NOISE TO A MINIMUM AND THE LAW LIBRARY STAFF IS INSTRUCTED BY ME TO IMPOSE GREATER RESTRICTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD.

This is the last issue of CHECK IT OUT for this semester. Three issues will be published during the Spring Semester beginning in January, 2018. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact Becky Hutto at rmhutto@samford.edu.

BEST OF LUCK WITH FINALS!!