

Academic Universe



Academic Universe contains a large subset of traditional Lexis-Nexis files. Some files formerly available are not available in AU. Also, the files are not updated in real time. However, access is no longer restricted to curricular use, as it was in the traditional access product. Be sure to read the **Help** for information on formulating a search. Note there is a wide variety of files available. The **Medical Abstracts** is **not** full-text. But there are some good full-text medical journals in the **General Medical and Health Topics**.

The screenshot shows the Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home | Sources | How Do I? | Overview | Help". A banner on the right says "Father's day is in July, Right?". On the left, there is a vertical menu with icons for "Academic Universe", "Congressional Universe", "Congressional Universe", and "Statistical Universe". The main content area lists several search categories: "News" (Search the full text of today's news or search back more than 20 years), "Business" (Retrieve full text company news & financial information), "Legal Research" (Search full text federal, state & international legal materials), "Medical" (Find full text & abstracted medical & health information), and "Reference" (Search general reference sources).

The screenshot shows the "General Medical & Health Topics" search interface. It includes a "Tips" link. Below the title, there is a paragraph: "Keyword terms must appear at least three times in the article. Additional Terms search the full text. Only articles that match all the criteria you enter will be found." The form contains several fields: "Keyword:" with a text box containing "breast cancer" and a red "Entry Required" label below it; "Narrow search with additional terms:" with a text box containing "statistics or prevalence or incid" and "e.g. emphysema" below it; "Source:" with a dropdown menu set to "Medical & Health News" and a "Source List" link; "Date:" with a radio button selected for "Previous five years" and a dropdown menu, and another radio button for "From: [] To: []" with an "Examples" link. At the bottom, there are "Search" and "Clear Form" buttons.

Instructions for searching Academic Universe

1. Select the **link** most appropriate to your topic – e.g. News, Business, Legal Research, Medical or Reference – and select again if you need to.
2. Complete the Search Form with your **search terms**. **Tips**, located below the form, can help you with entering terms correctly. Required fields/values are indicated with a note.
3. When finished entering your search criteria, click **Search**. After a short delay, the **Document List** page appears listing the most current documents retrieved that match your request. The Document List provides general information (headline, source, date, and length) about the document it represents.
4. After reviewing the list of available documents, **click on the document** you want to read.
5. The individual document page appears displaying the full-text of the selected document.
6. To **Print** or **Save** the document, from the Web browser's **File** menu select **Print** or **Save**, or **Save As**.

If your search has found more than 25 documents, they will be displayed in the Document List in groups of 25. To display the next 25 documents, click on **Next** when in the Document List.

If your search would retrieve more than 1,000 documents, you will receive an error message. Use the **Back** button on your browser to return to your search form. Then add additional search terms, use less common search terms, use a more specific date, use the **AND** connector between words.

- **W/N** is where N equals any number from 1-222 – **white w/1 house** (white within one word of house)
- **W/P** is where the words are within the same paragraph – **Kosovo w/p peace** (Kosovo in the same paragraph as peace)
- **W/S** is where the words are within the same sentence – **asthma w/s treatment** (asthma within the same sentence as treatment)

Truncation:

Use the **asterisk (*)** to replace a letter or letters in a word. You can use more than one asterisk in a word and you can use it anywhere in a word except as the first letter.

Use the **exclamation mark (!)** to replace an infinite number of letters following a word root. You can use only one exclamation mark in a word and it must be at the end of the word root.

Plurals and Singulars

System automatically searches singular, regular plural and plural possessive endings for search words. For example, a search on the term company will find company, companies and company's.

Precision Searching

There may be times when you want only the plural or singular form of a word. Use the plural or singular command to specify a word's form. For example:

To find only the word William:

singular (william)

To find only the word Williams:

plural (williams)