Nexis Uni

New Interface for the Legal & Business Database

Review Date: 17 January 2019

Overall Score (Weighted Total)	★★★★★

Content — 40% (Quality, uniqueness, reliability, and appropriateness for community college audience)	5
Interface — 25% (Usability, customization, mobile supported, lack of problems, print/download/email content, citation formatting)	4
Cost — 15% (Value and terms of use)	3
Accessibility — 15% (Compliance with standards)	3.5
Support — 5% (For administrators and users)	3

Nexis Uni offers previous users of Lexis Nexis Academic additional personalized features, 3 new discipline specific pages, and improved post-search filtering options.

Method

Two committee members reviewed the vendor's product website, information provided by the vendor, user generated reviews and information, in addition to testing the interface by performing various searches and testing out features of the product.

Review

Introduction

Nexis Uni, the successor to Lexis Nexis, is an academic database appropriate for university and community college libraries. The database specializes in news, legal, and business resources (company & financial information). Sources include journals, news transcripts, newswires, blogs, and business information on national and international companies, including local, regional, and

national news. A full title list is available on the vendor's product [website](#) (see Nexis Uni Content Listing Key - Excel Version). Titles are updated for free with 76%-100% titles available in full text and 25% or less open source content.

Interface

For those with experience with the previous interface (previously called LexisNexis Academic), there is a [comparison](#) chart available. The new interface was built with input from a student advisory board made up of university students.

Search interfaces include basic and advanced search pages that use Boolean, natural language, and predictive search options. Specific publications may also be searched and saved as favorites for easy searching. Searching within a specific publication and making it a favorite was not an intuitive process. There are three discipline specific pages: business, political science, and criminal justice, that can be used as a starting point for many students. Discipline pages include key topic searches and quick access to information on news, legislation, landmark cases, law review articles, etc.

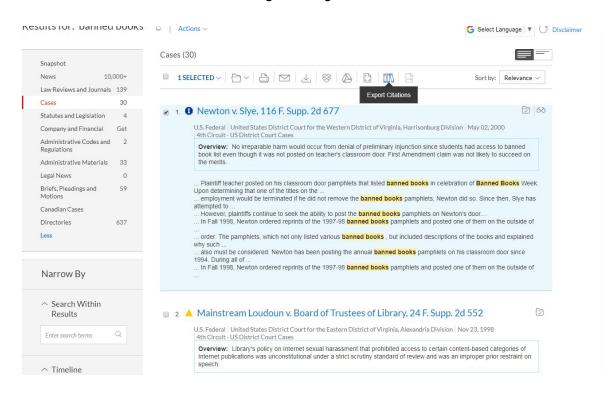View of Basic Search Screen/Homepage

Filtering or narrowing of results can happen prior to searching or after results are given. Pre-search filters include content, cases and codes, news, topics areas, etc. Additional filters on the results page include options such as publication location, subject, industry, etc. Advanced search screen helps students do Boolean searching who may not be familiar with how to craft a search statement with options such as searching for any, all, a phrase, or exclude terms.

Results and article views may also be translated into various languages using a Google Translate feature.

A pair of reading glass icons appear after one has clicked on a result to view, helping one determine if they have already reviewed the source. If a source is worthy, you can select it (and multiple sources) for further features such as save, print, email, download, save to Dropbox, Google Drive, printer-friendly views, or export citations.Citations are available for APA, Bluebook, Chicago, and MLA. However, it was noted that APA citations consistently list the date first when there is no author.

View of Results Screen, Also Showing Reading Glasses, and Access to Citations

Users can create folders to organize saved materials and tag favorite publications. Documents may be annotated (notes and highlighting) and the annotations may be shareable with others via email or folders. Permalinks are also an option for sharing content. Permalinks and folder access require authentication. Alerts may be set up and shared to indicate when new results for a search are available.

Mobile-friendly

Nexis Uni offers a device response design to optimize for size of screen. Testing on a mobile phone worked similar to desktop. Annotations appeared to be the only featured lost on the mobile screen.

Initialization and Administration

Authentication methods include IP, username/password, and proxy server authentication (EZ Proxy). NexisUni works "directly with discovery services providers that subscribe to our database to make the necessary changes" (source: Nexis Uni FAQ) .

Usage statistics can provide information on searches, retrievals, sessions, and retrievals by source. Unfortunately, usage statistics are not counter compliant. Administrators can manage IDs for their account.

Accessibility

Nexis Lexis's "Commitment to Accessibility" statement on their website indicates an ongoing commitment to "empower all customers" and vendor information shared with the committee indicates that Nexis Uni is generally compatible with screen readers. Nexis Lexis will provide VPAT & WCAG 2.0 evaluations upon request.

The statement that Nexis Uni is generally compatible with screen readers is supported by accessibility testing by two organizations, the Big Ten Academic Alliance and Tennessee Board of Regents, Office of Academic Affairs, Accessibility Instructional Materials and Technology department. Both of these reports agree that there are some issues with incorrect voice/screen reader announcements, keyboard access, and reading order. The Tennessee Board of Regents website indicates a conformance date of 12/31/2020.

Our own testing using WAVE and aXe on various pages shows some errors. aXe found more errors on results pages and viewing full text pages than the homepage or personal folders page. Both found issues that would cause screen readers to overlook elements used to navigate all the options available.

Support

Tips and video tutorials are available on the vendor's website with monthly webinar trainings available. On-site training is also available. Phone and email support is provided. To alert users of changes, there is an "In the Know" e-newsletter, email, and in-product messaging about changes.

Cost

Cost is charged by an annual subscription based on FTES with a $1,000 minimum charge per year. Given the few options for legal research, libraries would most likely want to compare the products and their costs before deciding if the costs are reasonable for their needs.

The Competition

Legal source competitors include Westlaw and HeinLaw (which is noted on many Library's websites as a resource for historical rather than current research). Competitors for the business sources include Reference USA and Hoover's Online.

Recommended Improvements

The search interface webpage is sparse enough that it would seem fine to list the five categories included in the dropdown menu that is labeled, "Menu". This would eliminate the need to click on this dropdown menu to find out the various search categories. This part of the interface could be structured with the term, *Search Categories* as a heading that is followed by hyperlinks of the five categories. The category labeled, *Search Home* could be replaced by the term, *Search All Categories and Sources*. It would be helpful to include a brief description of the purpose of the link that is labeled, "Get a Doc Assistance."

<u>**Conclusion**</u>

Nexis-Uni has a new clean simple interface that is intuitive and easy to navigate. This updated version of the Nexis-Lexis database is accessible to undergraduate novice students while still allowing for advanced in depth searching within the content areas of news, law reviews, company information, federal and state cases, and some newspapers and magazines. The most obvious update is related to searching and browsing capabilities. The main landing page now features a large, simple search bar that allows the user to search all Nexis Uni content from a single interface and pre-filtering options.

The Advanced Search contains all the expected tools for power users along with search hints and frequently asked questions.

Other Reviews

[Charleston Advisor (Jan 2018)](#) - Citation Only