

Searching with Terms and Connectors

Legal Research Center Video Series

Terms and Connectors

Today's topics:

1. Understanding terms and connectors searching
2. Constructing sample terms and connectors searches in Lexis and Westlaw

1. Understanding terms and connectors searching

Terms and Connectors searching (sometimes called Boolean searching or advanced searching)

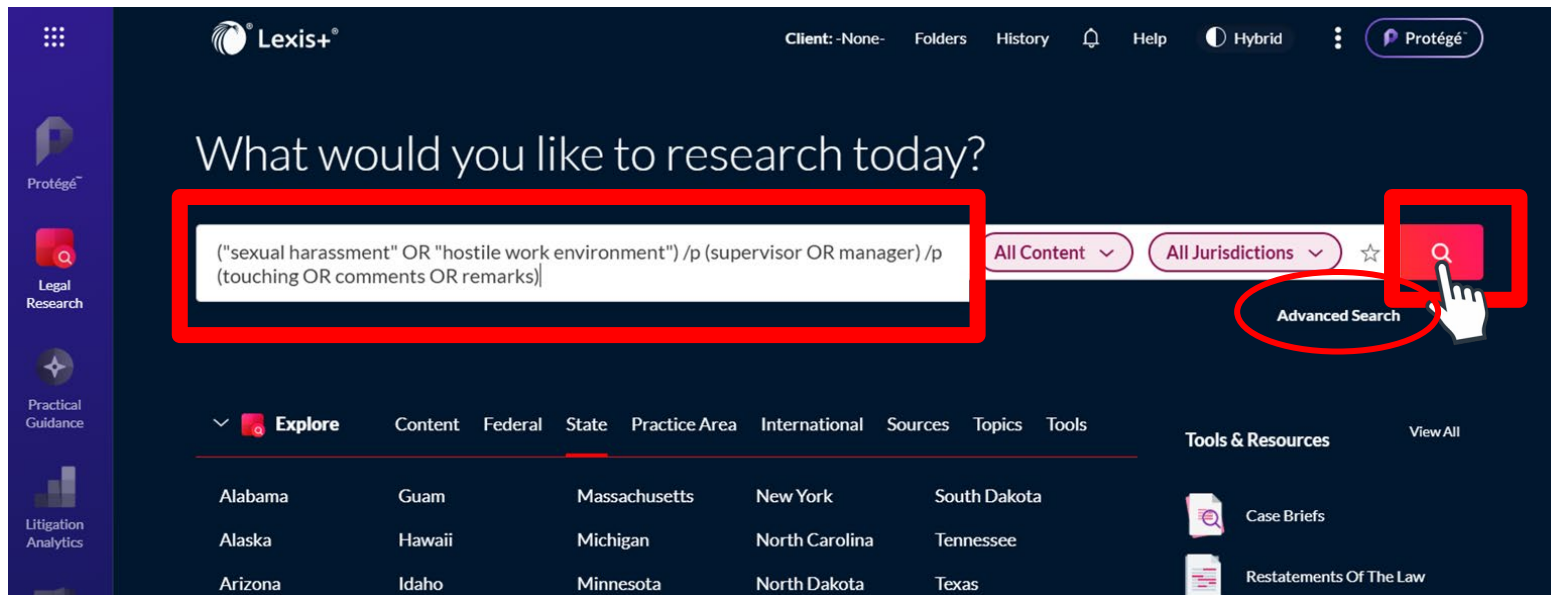
- is a method of legal research that uses keywords as **terms**, combined with **connectors** (e.g. AND, OR, /s, /p)
- results in greater control over the amount of cases, statutes, or secondary sources you retrieve.

Popular connectors

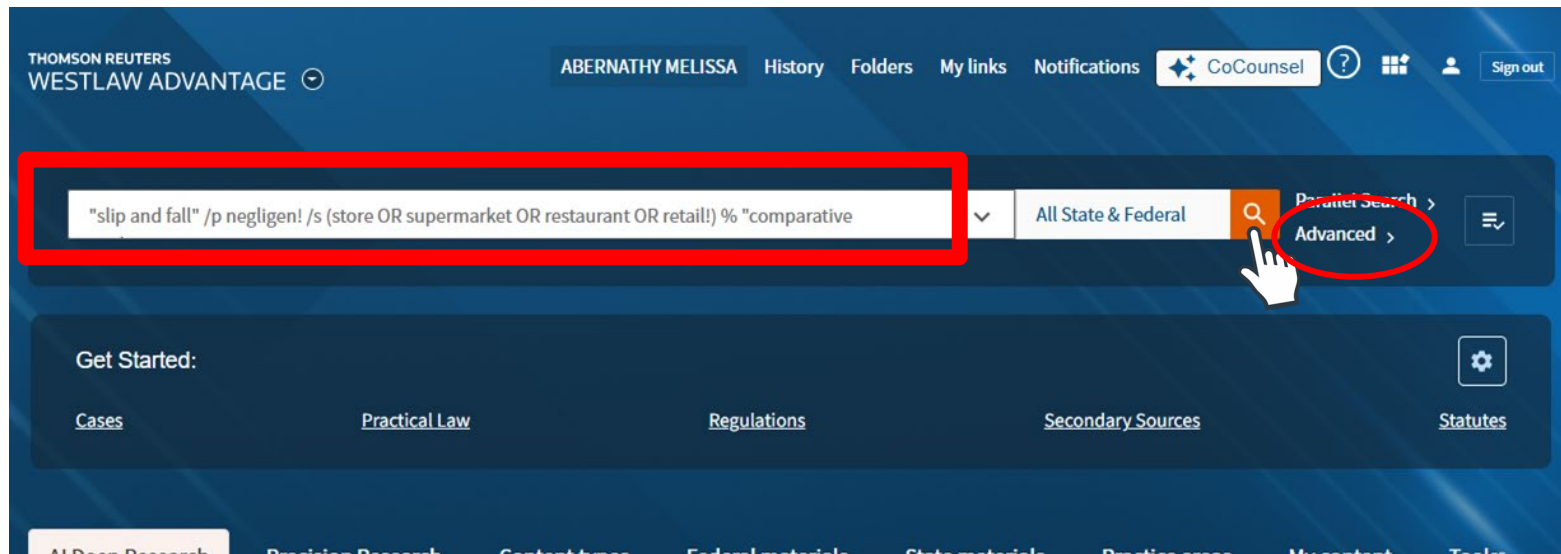
	Lexis	Westlaw	Examples
both terms must be present	and &	and &	trademark AND infringement
either term must be present	or	space or	car OR automobile in both systems; car automobile in Westlaw
terms must be in same sentence	/s w/s	/s w/s	design /s defect
terms must be in same paragraph	/p w/p	/p w/p	trademark /p infringement
grouping search terms	()	()	(car OR automobile) /p (injury OR harm)
expand root word by any number of letters	! *	!	liab! would find liable or liability

2. Constructing sample terms and connectors searches

- ("sexual harassment" OR "hostile work environment") /p (supervisor OR manager) /p (touching OR comments OR remarks)



- "slip and fall" /p negligen! /s (store OR supermarket OR restaurant OR retail!) %
"comparative negligence"



Wrap Up

- Terms and connectors searching is useful because it gives you greater precision than natural language searching, helping you quickly find the most relevant cases, statutes, or secondary sources without wading through unnecessary results.

LRC Reference Desk

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Other videos in this series are available on [the LWR Research Trainings page](#) of the LRC's website.