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Going Beyond Google:

Researching News Online



By Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen

With the increase in internet research in the past decade, news resources have become more freely available. It's no longer necessary to wait for the morning paper to read the news or to visit the local library to view past issues. The news can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection and can even be read on a cell phone or PDA. So how has this changed the way the news is researched?

Some researchers believe that the news is too biased or should only be used to research history. However, there are many reasons why the news is a great source of information for the legal community. News not only plays a vital role in documenting current events but also proves particularly useful for locating information about individuals and businesses. Whether you are looking for news on a particular business or on an individual, there are many free resources available on the World Wide Web.

When researching the news in general, internet news search engines can serve as basic starting points. **Google News** [www.google.com/news/] is a site that aggregates headlines from more than 4,500 news sources worldwide. It also allows the user to set up news alerts and to search archived news. **AllTheWeb** [www.alltheweb.com] is a site that indexes news on the internet in almost real time

and **HighBeam** [www.highbeam.com] searches over 3,500 general and specialized search engines and databases at the same time for a fee. **Find Articles** [www.findarticles.com] is a site that provides the full text of articles from over 300 publications dating back to 1998.

Most of the results retrieved by these search engines will either link directly to the article or to a site that can provide the article. Search engines are not all built alike, nor are they perfect, so look for advanced searching capabilities before performing a search to increase the relevancy of the results.

If news search engines aren't providing the right amount of news information, then try researching a news wire. **The Associated Press** [www.ap.org/] provides an online news wire that contains Associated Press news and photos. The site has both a seven-day search tool and an archive search tool. If you are looking for business news, then **Business Wire** [www.businesswire.com] provides company news archives, company profiles and annual reports. **Reuters** [www.reuters.com], now owned by Thomson, is another global information company that provides world news, business news, and financial news.

It's also easy to find access to newspapers on the Internet. Of course, some newspapers provide more information than others, and some even require subscriptions to view their content. **News Voyager** [www.newspaperlinks.com/voyager] provides links to U.S. daily and weekly

newspaper home pages and sections, Canadian and international daily newspapers, newspaper groups, associations and other media organizations. The best feature of this site is that it serves as a gateway to local newspapers that otherwise might be difficult to locate. **Newslink** [www.newslink.org] allows searching of not only city and state newspapers, but also city and state television and radio sources.

To find archived news sources on the Web, check out the **U.S. News Archives on the Web** [www.ibiblio.org/slanews/] maintained by the Special Libraries Association. This site provides links to U.S. news archives and the costs for access.

If it's legal news you are after, try using legal news portals like **Lawyer Express** [http://lawyrexpress.com/public] or **FindLaw** [http://news.findlaw.com]. These sites provide major legal headlines and links to full-text articles. **Law.com** [www.law.com] also offers a legal news and information network. Law.com provides access to over 20 national and regional legal publications online, including *The American Lawyer*, *The National Law Journal*, *New York Law Journal* and *Legal Times*.

If the information you are seeking cannot be found in a free online news source, then commercial databases are also excellent resources for finding news publications from the past and present. Lexis provides access to over 20,000 news publications including Factiva content sources such as The Wall Street Journal, Barrons, Dow Jones Business News, Reuters and more. Westlaw also provides access to news publications. After

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acquiring the global news and financial data service, Reuters, the Thomson Corporation added and continues to add more news content to Westlaw. With these resources in mind, here's a tip, when researching in either free online or fee based news resources make sure the information is the most current.

Keeping up with the most current news in the world requires more than just reading the daily print newspapers every morning. Because of advances in technology, the news is now published on a minute to minute basis instead of day to day. On any given day television news resources like CNN.com, MSNBC.msn.com, or ABCNews.go.com publish news as fast as it happens. Staying up-to-date on what's happening in the news and on how to research the news could be crucial to winning your case or helping a client.

If you want to monitor a particular news service but don't have time to visit any of the news sites mentioned, then RSS is the solution. RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary. It is basically a format for delivering regularly changing web content to one feed or news aggregator. Many news-related sites and other online publishers syndicate their content as an RSS Feed to whoever wants it. RSS not only saves you time but it also saves you the hassle of signing up for daily newsletters from each individual publication. Commercial publishers have also started similar RSS services. Westlaw offers **Westlaw Watch** and LexisNexis offers **LexisNexis Tracker**. Both services will clip headlines or full-text articles on current news, business, and legal information and allow you to monitor the clips across your subscriptions. Finally, the fee-based Internet news aggregator, **Moreover Technologies** [www.moreover.com], also provides real-time news, current awareness and business information in one easy to read package.

For more news resources, check out the Library of Congress list of news and periodical resources [www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html] or the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. 

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