

Quick Guide to LexisNexis Statistical Universe

Introduction

This guide provides a brief overview to *LexisNexis Statistical* and some sample search questions to help you get started using the database. Finding statistics can initially seem overwhelming, but a good grounding in this basic source can make the task easier. This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive tutorial of all the features of *LexisNexis Statistical*.

The majority of users coming into the library seeking statistical information tend not to know the title of the statistical publication, or the author, or any type of classification number. Therefore, the focus in the guide will subject searches. The sample search questions will give you practice using subject and other search options.

What Type of Information Can I Find in LexisNexis Statistical?

LexisNexis Statistical is an excellent second resource to use when searching for almost any kind of statistic. The best place to begin for U.S. statistics is almost always *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Even when you think a statistic could not possibly be in the *Statistical Abstract*--check anyway. You will be astounded at the information you can find in *Statistical Abstract*. Once you have ruled out the ability to find the information you need in *Statistical Abstract*, you might want to start your search on *LexisNexis Statistical*

There are three categories of statistics you can find in *LexisNexis Statistical*: federal; state, local, and private; and international. You can search each section separately, two at a time, or all at once:

- 1) **American Statistics Index (ASI):** United States federal statistics.
- 2) **Statistical Reference Index (SRI):** State, business organizations, associations, commercial publishers, independent research organizations, University research centers.
- 3) **Index to International Statistics (IIS):** International statistics.

Keep in mind that the University of Illinois does have these indexes and abstracts in print in the Government Documents Library, and this approach might be preferable for some users. Users first look in the index, and subsequently look at the abstract. They can examine the corresponding microfiche, which is also in the Government Documents Library.

What should I do before I begin my search?

Before using the database for the first time, it is a good idea to read through the "**How do I?**" and "**Help**" sections that are linked to the top of each screen.

How Do I:

This section provides answers for how to search for commonly asked statistical questions, such as crime data and census information. This section applies to both LexisNexis Statistical Universe and *Statistical Abstract*. The bottom section gives some general information about statistical data.

Help:

There are three components to this section: **About LexisNexis Statistical**, **Spotlight on Statistics** and **LexisNexis Statistical Knowledge Base**. **About LexisNexis Statistical** gives detailed information about the database and how it is compiled. **Spotlight on Statistics** will orient you to the Government's role in producing statistics, explains some statistical concepts, and even provides a statistical glossary. **LexisNexis Statistical Knowledge Base** contains information on how to use *LexisNexis Statistical*.

Searching Options

When you click on the "home" link, you will see three options: Search Tables Base Edition, Search Abstracts, and List of Links. Searching Tables Base Edition will provide tables that are accessible on the Internet or as GIF images. Date coverage goes back to 1997, and tables are indexed by subject, title, row headings, and column headings. Full text is not always directly accessible when you search abstracts, but date coverage goes back to the 1970s in some cases and entries are more thoroughly indexed and abstracted. You will have the same options to narrow your searches whether you are searching tables or abstracts. You can enter keywords to search, limit it to International, U.S., or State & Local, as well as narrowing by geographic, demographic, economic, and frequency to narrow your results.

Tips for Subject Searching

Keyword or phrase:

You can search by keyword by entering a term into the text box. More than one word will be searched as a phrase. Be sure to insert a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) between each keyword if you do not want to the terms searched as a phrase.

Example: poverty AND India

There are only three text blocks in the Search Abstracts screen, but you can enter many terms within a text block by using Boolean operators.

Example: poverty AND India AND children AND women

Subject terms:

At the right of each text box, there is a subject list button. It can be helpful to use the subject terms so that you do not have to guess the appropriate term. If you click on the subject list button, you will get a text box where you can enter a term to see if it is part of the database's

controlled vocabulary terms. You will be brought to a subject index, where there are cross references (e.g., use also, use). You can check off the boxes to combine many terms at once, then click "Paste to Search."

Finding the Item Online or in the UIUC Library

The Government Documents Library has almost all microfiche for ASI, SRI, and IIS. At the top of the screen of an individual record, there will be a microfiche number. It will say "Record Number _____." The number will always begin with ASI, SRI, IIS. For example, it will say Record Number ASI 2000 6004-23. You can take that number to the Government Documents Library. The Government Documents Library has **almost all** the documents in microfiche.

Reasons why UIUC might not have the microfiche:

- 1) If UIUC receives an ASI source through the Federal Depository Library Program, we do not receive the ASI microfiche. Thus, if you find something in ASI but can not find the fiche, check the online catalog to see where we have it. It might be in print, or it might be in the regular Government Documents microfiche section rather than the ASI/SRI/IIS microfiche section.
- 2) If the source publication is not filmed, then no microfiche for that source exists. If you look at the top of the record, it will tell you if the source has been filmed. If it has not been filmed, you can then check Illinet Online to see if we have it in print.

Also, many of the titles in LexisNexis Statistical Universe are in our print collection. Use the online catalog to check for these items.

Practice Questions

1. Where can I find information on how many fatal car accidents there were in Pennsylvania in 2001?
2. I am looking for statistics on international whale populations.
3. I would like information on how many unmarried women have children. I am mainly interested in information about cities.
4. How can I find statistics on AIDS infection and death rates in Africa? I may need some information going as far back as the 1980s.
5. I have been searching LexisNexis Statistical, and found a good source, but I did not write down the title. I only wrote down the microfiche number. Can I track down what the title is? The microfiche number is: ASI 1999 2324-9.
6. How many dogs are used in research in the United States?
7. How many bicycles were stolen in 1990 in the United States?
8. How large in Japan's film industry? The most recent data is fine.
9. I am wondering how to get statistics on tornadoes. I want to compare information over a period of months.
10. How can I find recent statistical publications from Department of Justices from various states? I am not interested in Federal Department of Justice publications.

Answers to Practice Questions

These answers offer one approach to tracking down the desired information. There are probably many other ways you can find the information *in LexisNexis Statistical* if you feel like exploring.

1. Where can I find information on how many fatal car accidents there were in Pennsylvania in 2001?

In Search Abstracts, click on subject list button. Enter “accidents” in the text box. Scroll down and then choose “traffic accident fatalities.” Click “paste to search” box. Enter date restrictions: from 2001-2003 (it usually takes many months for governments to compile annual statistics). Click on “By U.S. State” in Narrow Your Search by These Breakdowns, then click on the Search button.

2. I am looking for statistics on international whale populations.

In Search Abstracts, click on the subject list button, and enter “whales” in the text box. Click the box next to “use marine mammals,” then click “paste to search” button. In the second text box, enter “population,” enter “whales” in the third text box. Click on “by Foreign Country” in the Geographic Breakdowns section, then click “search” button. One item on the list is a publication “Report of the International Whaling Commission.” If you click on the link to the record, you can see the microfiche number at the top of the page. You can get the microfiche at the Government Documents Library.

3. I would like information on how many unmarried women have children. I am mainly interested in information about cities.

This search can be done in either Tables Base Edition or Abstracts. Click on the subject list button and enter “birth” in the text box. Scroll down and click on the box “see also Births out of Wedlock,” then click “paste to search.” Choose to compare by “city.” Click the search button.

4. How can I find statistics on AIDS infection and death rates in Africa? I may need some information going as far back as the 1980s.

Choose to compare by “country.” Enter “deaths” in the first text entry box, then use the subject list to find “acquired immune deficiency syndrome” and put it in the second text entry box. Enter “Africa” in the third box. Choose to compare by “country,” then click search button.

5. I have been searching LexisNexis Statistical, and found a good source, but I did not write down the title. I only wrote down the microfiche number. Can I track down what the title is? The microfiche number is: ASI 1999 2324-9.

Choose the “search by document number” from the drop down menu. Click on the box next to ASI, then enter “2324-9” in the text box. The title of the item is “***World Population Profile: 1998.***”

6. How many dogs are used in research in the United States?

Try this search in both Power Tables and Search Abstracts. Choose the search by subject feature. Use the subject list to find the term “animal experimentation,” then click search.

7. How many bicycles were stolen in 1990 in the United States?

In the text box of the Power Tables screen, enter “bicycles and theft,” and search by subject terms. Click the box to select “U.S. Totals” and then limit the selected period of date coverage to include 1990. Click the search button. You should get results with tables of U.S. Robbery and Property Crime data that includes bicycle theft totals.

8. How large is Japan’s film industry? The most recent data is fine.

In Search Abstracts, click on the subject list button, and enter film. Check off the button next to “use motion pictures,” then click “paste to search”. Use the drop down menu to select a subject search. In the second text box, enter “Japan” as a subject word, and then click on search.

9. I am wondering how to get statistics on tornadoes. I want to compare information over a period of months.

Choose the search by subject feature. Enter “tornadoes” in the text box and click “search” button. The first item on the list is called *Storm Data*, which issues monthly weather happenings.

10. How can I find recent statistical publications from Department of Justices from various states? I am not interested in Federal Department of Justice publications.

In Search Abstracts, enter “Justice” in the text box. Then use the drop down menu to select to search by Agency/Publisher. Click the box to search only SRI, and then select “by U.S. state” under “Narrow your search by these breakdowns”. Click the search button. The citations are mostly to state Department of Justice statistical material.