LexisNexis WSK Implementation
Tips for Effective Searches

Purpose:

As downloading is queued for nights and weekends, more effective searches can reduce the time for results to be returned to researchers.

A. Selecting Sources

Searches run more efficiently if a single combined source file is searched instead of searching each source individually.

For example: To search English language newspapers, use the All English Language News (ID: 8399) source file instead of selecting "New York Times", "Washington Post", "Daily Mail", "The Guardian" etc.

Frequently used combined source files can be found by

a) Selecting either "Commonly Used Resources" or "Popular Combined News Sources" from the Available Sources dropdown menu in Text Assembler

   OR

b) Browsing this list http://w3.nexis.com/sources/scripts/eslClient.pl?GSDTYPE=News
   a. Group Sources are indicated in the file name; click a group source name to see the individual sources included
   b. Find the Source ID indicated in the last part of the URL
         Example: UK Broadsheets http://w3.nexis.com/sources/scripts/info.pl?242773
         Source ID is 242773
   c. Enter source ID in the Selected Title IDs box in the Text Assembler search screen

B. Building A Search Query

Queries using index fields instead of keyword searching retrieve more relevant results. Index searching is particularly useful when search terms are ambiguous.

For example: Amazon (company vs river) or ING (bank vs part of running, speaking, etc)

How to construct a search with index fields

Companies including public companies from around the world, major private companies and subsidiaries
         company(express or hp or microsoft or samsung or meijer or…)

Organizations including universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, member associations, terrorist groups, U.S. professional sports teams. The index term may not be the popularly used form of the name.

> organization(michigan state university or peace corps or islamic state group or…)

Continents, regions and countries. Retrieves articles about a country or region. Use source list to find articles from a specific country or region.

> country(middle east or iran or israel or saudi arabia or …)

U.S. states. Retrieves articles about a state. Use source list to find articles from a specific region.

> state(indiana or michigan or california or …)

Capitals and major cities, astronomical places and physical features

> geographic(everest or himalayas or paris or …)

People

> person(obama or hillary Clinton or donald trump or bill gates or …)