Nexis Uni

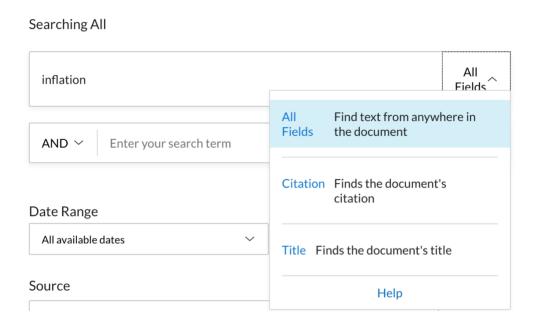
Link: https://search.library.wisc.edu/database/UWI60120

Step 1. Advanced Search



Step 2. Input Search Terms and Scope

Nexis Uni only allows full text search and title search, while Factiva allows you to search in topic, headlines, and lead paragraphs.



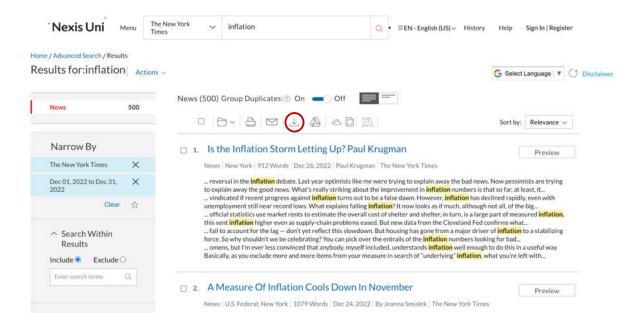
Step 3. Input Date Range and Source

I recommend searching for one source at a time, because

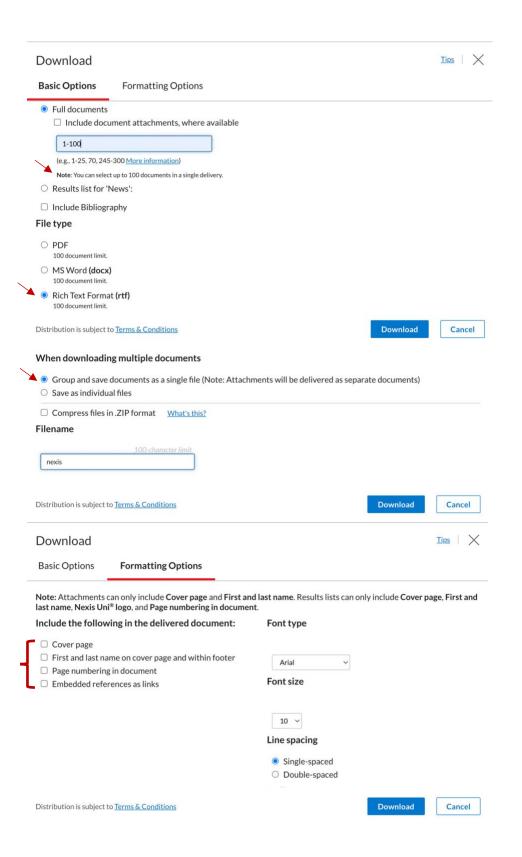
- (1) the maximum number of articles you can download in a single delivery is 100. So you'll need to download multiple times anyway; and
- (2) searching for one source at a time will allow you to parse the output files more easily.

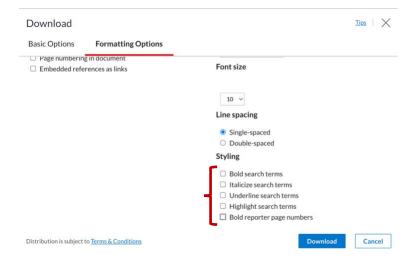
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Step 4. Download Results



After clicking the download button, you'll see a lot of settings you can customize. I recommend the following configuration for easier parsing. Note that we get rid of all the formatting stuff because when r reads in a .rtf file, it does not read in the formats, and will by default omit some formatted texts unless you explicitly specify otherwise.

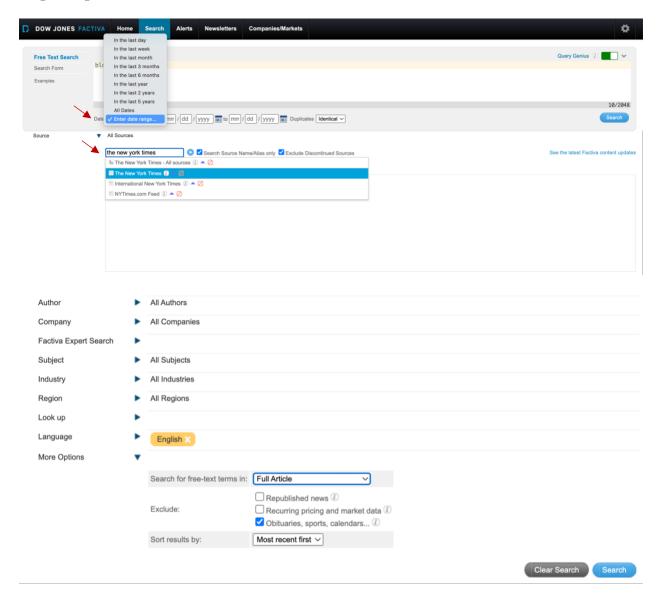




Factiva

Link: https://search.library.wisc.edu/database/UWI17611

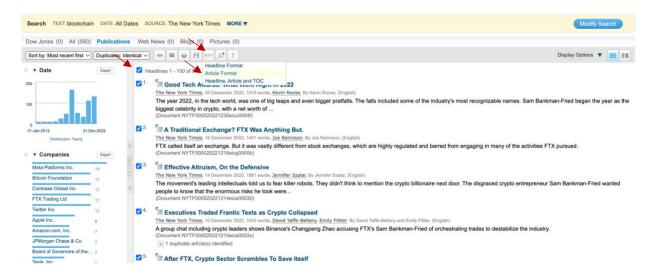
Step 1. Input Search Criteria



Factiva also allows you to specify author, company, subject, industry, region, language as search criteria. *Factiva Expert Search* includes some pre-specified search queries for some popular topics for you to use directly.

In *More Options*, you can specify the scope of your search and what to exclude from your search results, etc.

Step 2. Download



Again, downloading in article format allows you to get all information and parse the file easily.

Notes

You may notice that with a single search query, you sometimes (if not always) get different numbers of articles from Factiva and Nexis Uni... This is the drawback of news databases – their indexing processes are black boxes for us. I usually use the database that returns more results, but still, the results are not guaranteed to be exhaustive.

Also, you may not be able to find some niche media you're interested in studying. I think Factiva is better than Nexis in indexing niche media, at least for blockchain-focused media... You should explore your search terms in both databases to find the one that works for you!

The only way to combat these problems is to create your own website scraper with web drivers such as Selenium. It's a much more complicated process. We will offer a workshop on Selenium scraping next semester if the demand is high. Fortunately, results from news databases, despite all their problems, are still widely accepted in our field, and therefore, still something publishable.