Truman Bodden Law School Library

LIBRARY TIP

Using Connectors with Legal Databases

Grammatical **connectors** allow you to search for words and phrases within a specified distance of each other and can also help to provide more relevant search results.

The table below illustrates how the **connectors** work for the 2 main legal databases, **Lexis Library** and **Westlaw**.

DATABASE	Finding words within the same sentence	Finding words within the same paragraph	Finding words within "n" terms of each other (where "n" is a number)	Finding words with variant endings	Finding words with variable characters	Searching for phrases
LexisLibrary	**w/s** Example: **default w/s judgment** will find **default** within the same sentence as **judgment**	**w/p** Example: **extent w/p clause** will find **extent** within the same paragraph as **clause**	**w/n** Example: **person w/5 jurisdiction** will look for **person** within 5 words of **jurisdiction**	**!** Example: **pollut!** will find **pollution, pollute, polluted**	***** Example: **wom*n int**net** will find **woman** and **women** will find **internet** and **intranet**	There is no need to use quotation marks. Just type in the phrase
Westlaw UK	**/s** Example: **constructive /s dismissal** will find **constructive** within the same sentence as **dismissal**	**/p** Example: **unfair /p dismissal** will find **unfair** within the same paragraph as **dismissal**	**/n** Example: **constructive /5 dismissal** will look for **constructive** within 5 words of **dismissal**	**!** Example: **object!** will find **objected, objection, objecting**	***** Example: **withdr* P**rson** will find **withdraw** and **withdrew** will find **Pearson** and **Pierson**	**" "** Example: **"paternity leave"** Will find exact phrase **paternity leave**