

Nexis.com basics

After logging in, the “Power Search” link in the upper left takes you to the preferred template for searching clips.

Here are some excellent commands to help focus your search, using either the “search terms” or “search within results” boxes...

nextterms (andrew cuomo) – The “nextterms” command allows you to find clips that include a specified word or phrase in the headline, lead paragraph or indexing. It’s good for finding articles that focus on—rather than just mention—a person or topic.

atleast8 (cuomo) – The “atleast” command allows you to find clips that include a word or phrase “at least” a certain number of times. You can put any number you choose after the “atleast” command (e.g. atleast3, atleast5, atleast10, etc.). Like the “nextterms” command, it’s good for finding articles that focus on a person or topic.

length>500 – Limits your results to articles above a certain word count. Again, you can choose any number (e.g. length>400, length>1000, etc.).

jolie w/p pitt or **jolie w/s pitt** or **jolie w/5 pitt**– Limits your results to articles where two words appear within the same paragraph, the same sentence or within a specified number of words.

Also, be aware that you can combine commands via Boolean logic using “and” or “or.”
Examples:

atleast6 (bloomberg) and length>400 – Finds articles where bloomberg is mentioned 6 times and the word count is greater than 400.

atleast10 (bloomberg) or nextterms (michael bloomberg) – Finds articles where bloomberg is mentioned 10 times or michael bloomberg is mentioned in the headline, lead paragraph or indexing.

For truncation of words, use the exclamation point (!) character. For example, if you’re not sure whether a name will appear as Pam Anderson or Pamela Anderson, search for Pam! Anderson. Better yet, search for Pam! w/2 Anderson, which will also call up articles referring to her as Pamela Sue Anderson. Truncation is also useful to sidestep spelling questions. Ste! Colbert will find both Stephen Colbert and Steven Colbert.

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