

Some BNA Online Indexes

- ABA/BNA Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct: Current Reports Index
- Accounting Policy & Practice Report Index
- Antitrust & Trade Regulation Report Index
- Banking Report Index
- Bankruptcy Law Reporter Index
- Chemical Regulation Reporter: Current Reports Index
- Class Action Litigation Report Index
- Computer Technology Law Report Index
- Construction Labor Report Index
- Corporate Accountability Report Index
- Criminal Law Reporter Index
- Daily Labor Report Index
- Daily Report for Executives Index
- Daily Tax Report Index
- Electronic Commerce & Law Report Index
- Employment Discrimination Report Index
- Environment Reporter: Current Developments Index
- Expert Evidence Report Index
- Family Law Reporter Index
- Federal Contracts Report Index
- Government Employee Relations Index
- Health Care Fraud Report Index
- Health Care Policy Report Index

- Health Law Reporter Index
- Health Plan & Provider Report Index
- Human Resources Report Index
- International Environment Reporter: Current Reports Index
- International Trade Reporter: Current Reports Index
- Labor Relations Reporter Current Index
- Labor Relations Week Index
- Medical Research Law & Policy Report Index
- Medicare Report Index
- Mergers & Acquisitions Law Report Index
- Occupational Safety & Health Reporter: Current Reports Index
- Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal Index
- Pension & Benefits Reporter Index
- Pharmaceutical Law & Industry Report Index
- Privacy & Security Law Report Index
- Product Safety & Liability Reporter: Current Report Index
- Securities Regulation & Law Report Index
- Toxics Law Reporter Index
- United States Law Week Index
- White Collar Crime Report Index
- Workplace Law Report & Index

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Finding Everything You Need— BNA Indexes Ensure Accuracy and Save Time

Full Text Searchers Don't Know What They're Missing!

Researchers who rely entirely on text searching are missing information. Some experts estimate as much as 80 percent of significant content is missed by using full text searches to retrieve information.

BNA conducted a Usability Study to detect and quantify any disparity between text searching and research aided by indexes. Its study was conducted at law schools and compared success rates and completion times for text searchers with those of index users. Law students completed a series of research tasks using the online version of *United States Law Week*. They answered half of the questions using text searches. For the other half they used the online index.

Researchers Find Exactly What They Need Using Indexes

In the BNA Usability Study, index users had an 86 percent success rate while text searchers had only a 23 percent success rate. The study included both single answer and more complex research tasks. Results for the various types of tasks confirmed many limits of text searching. Text searching can be successful in locating proper names or an isolated piece of information involving very specific facts. However, for most legal research tasks, using an index provides more relevant and complete results.



Indexes Save Time

In the BNA Usability Study, index users had an average completion time of 57 seconds per research task. Without the index, 77% of text searchers were unable to successfully complete the tasks within the allotted five minutes. The other 23% required an average of 2 minutes and 47 seconds to be successful in completing a task.

Each Index Heading Provides a Subject Overview

In an index related information is grouped together under subject headings, making accidental discovery of useful items a common bonus for index users. You may know exactly what you are trying to find, but there may be more relevant information you did not expect to find or even know to consider. The cross references and logical structure of an index guide you to what is relevant to your research.

You can browse through index headings or conduct a search of an entire index for specific terms. Unlike text searches, index searches have advantages stemming from a logical structure and consistent terminology.

Cross-references from synonyms guide you if you happen to try a term other than a preferred word or term of art.

The following excerpt from a BNA index illustrates these points.

ANTITRUST

- Aircraft lessors' coordinated effort to repossess planes from bankrupt United Airlines not violation (7th Cir.), 1675
- College sports. See SCHOOLS, subheading: Athletics Enforcement by federal authorities, ABA report issued, 2453
- Farm products. See AGRICULTURE
- Immunity
 - Noerr-Pennington doctrine
 - Cable television franchises (6th Cir.), In Brief, 1431
 - Real estate agent suit over defendant's discovery misconduct barred (9th Cir.), 1771
 - Tobacco, multistate settlement agreement, state action (N.D. Cal.), In Brief, 1639
- Price discrimination, standing, circuit split roundup, 2046
- Remedies, state attorney general's suit seeking divestiture by bankrupt energy firm improperly stayed by court (9th Cir.), 1499
- Restraint of trade
 - Credit card and debit card acceptance by merchants, Visa and MasterCard sued for tying (2d Cir.), In Brief, 1447
 - Dog breeding club's refusal to register dogs registered with competitor not group boycott (9th Cir.), 1708
 - Marketing campaign by toilet partition maker to show safety hazards of rival product not violation (3d Cir.), 1483

Self-training to Use Indexes Is Minimal

Study participants were given no training and no instruction beyond, "Now use the index." In spite of this limited instruction, 10 second completion times were not unusual for first-time index users.

Issues Presented in Study Tasks

1. Can liquor stores place ads in college newspapers?
2. Is it legal for a company to require me to send my Social Security number over the Internet?
3. When bidding for a defense contract, do companies operated by blind persons get preferential treatment?
4. Are parental consent provisions in state abortion laws constitutional?
5. How many antitrust cases involving college athletes have been reported since July 1, 2004?
6. How many death penalty articles have appeared since July 1, 2004?

Study Results Summary—Text Searching Compared to Using an Index

	Text Search Success	Average Text Search Time	Index Success	Average Index Search Time
Liquor ads	92%	1:26	100%	24 sec.
Social Sec. #	43%	3:30	100%	1:10
Defense Contracts	5%	3:21	86%	1:26
Abortion	0%	5:00+	77%	49 sec.
Antitrust	0%	5:00+	62%	58 sec.
Death Penalty	0%	5:00+	93%	54 sec.

Why Indexes Work – Human Input

Indexers are subject-matter experts who analyze and classify every piece of information in a publication. BNA indexes work because a person takes the time to consider the context and meaning behind the words in a document. All of the indexing for BNA's legal publications is done by attorneys.