

The Student Spotlight

Lexis+ AI™

Navigating Legal Tech with Lexis+ AI™

Hello everyone! I'm Simon, and I'm excited to share some insights and tips from my experience using AI in the legal profession, specifically Lexis+ AI. As law students, we're constantly juggling coursework, research, and preparing for our future careers. Legal tech, especially AI tools like Lexis+ AI, can be a game-changer—but only if we use it wisely. Here are some tips and tricks to help you navigate this powerful tool while staying mindful of its mechanics and privacy implications.

1. GET FAMILIAR WITH LEXIS+ AI'S CORE FEATURES

Lexis+ AI is designed to make legal research faster and more efficient. Here's how I've used its features to my advantage:

Natural Language Search: While also spending time crafting the Boolean searches, I can additionally type my question in plain English. For example, "What are the elements of a breach of contract claim?" Lexis+ AI delivers relevant cases, statutes, and secondary sources in seconds.

Brief Analysis: This feature is a lifesaver for memo writing. Upload your draft, and Lexis+ AI will analyze it, suggesting stronger authorities or pointing out gaps in your argument.

Lexis+ AI takes citation checking to the next level by not only telling you if a case is still good law but also summarizing how it's been treated in subsequent decisions.

Pro Tip: Spend some time exploring the platform's tutorials or attending training sessions offered by your school or LexisNexis. Knowing the full range of features will save you time in the long run.



2. UNDERSTAND THE MECHANICS BEHIND AI TOOLS

While Lexis+ AI is incredibly helpful, it's important to understand how it works. AI tools rely on algorithms trained on vast datasets, which means they're only as good as the data they're fed.

Here's what I keep in mind:

Bias and Limitations: AI can inadvertently reflect biases present in its training data. Always double-check the results, especially when dealing with nuanced or controversial legal issues.

Transparency: Lexis+ AI provides explanations for its results, but it's still up to you to critically evaluate them. Don't take the AI's word as gospel—use it as a starting point, not the final answer.

Pro Tip: Pair Lexis+ AI with traditional research methods. Cross-reference its results with other databases or consult secondary sources to ensure accuracy.

3. BE MINDFUL OF PRIVACY AND ETHICAL CONCERNS

As future lawyers, we have a responsibility to protect client confidentiality and uphold ethical standards. When using AI tools, consider the following:

Data Privacy: Lexis+ AI processes your queries and documents to generate results. Be cautious about uploading sensitive or confidential information. Always review the platform's privacy policy to understand how your data is used and stored.

Ethical Implications: The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) and the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) are still grappling with the ethical use of AI in law. Stay informed about emerging guidelines and best practices.

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