

# InfoTrac Custom Newspapers

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**Objectives:** This handout will familiarize you with:  
1 - The major features of InfoTrac Custom Newspapers.  
2 - How to perform a Keyword and Advanced Search in this database.

**Scope:** InfoTrac Custom Newspapers provides access to the full-text articles of more than 100 U.S. newspapers and 60 international English-language newspapers. Updated daily.

**Use:**

- Local, National and International Current Events.
- First-hand accounts of current and historical events.

**Strengths:** Articles are provided in full-text and are completely indexed, including proper names.

**Weaknesses:** Obituaries are not indexed by newspaper section; Graphics from articles are not available.

## Major Texas Newspapers:

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Austin American-Statesman (Austin, TX)	01/1996 to present
Dallas Morning News (Dallas, TX)	08/2002 to present
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, TX)	11/2002 to present
Houston Chronicle (Houston, TX)	01/1996 to present
San Antonio Express-News (San Antonio, TX)	11/2002 to present

**Search Types:**

- *Keyword* – finds articles that have your search word(s) in the title, citation, abstract OR text of the article. Articles are displayed from most recently published to oldest.
- *Publication* – looks for a specific newspaper within the collection. You can limit the search to documents with full-text and by date, subject, and location.
- *Advanced* – more experienced searchers have the opportunity to use complex search expressions in combinations with one another in order to more precisely focus the search.

## Sample Keyword Search

If a patron wants to get an idea of what kind of general news coverage there is concerning former presidential candidate John McCain and his service in Vietnam, a Basic search is a good place to begin.

Currently searching *InfoTrac Newspapers* with 49,254,866 articles updated as recently as April 13, 2009

### Basic Search

**1** Find:

**Search**

Search for words in:  Subject  Keyword  Entire document

[Hide search options](#)

**Limit results:**

to documents with full text

to document with images

by publication date(s)  All Dates  Before  On  After  Between

**2**

by publication title:  [Browse Publication Title](#)

by publication subject:  [Browse Publication Subject](#)

1. Decide on your key terms. In this case, the terms mccain and vietnam were used. The connector “and” was used, because we are looking for articles that have both the words mccain AND vietnam in the article.
2. We can limit the search by date of publication, looking only for articles written since January 2008.

**Search Limiters:** You can limit the scope of your search by using search limiters. These can help you find more exactly what you are looking for and narrow the search down to a more reasonable number of results. The following are ways you can limit what will be searched:

*Search by:*

▪ Title of publication	▪ Headline of article	▪ Newspaper Section
▪ Author of article	▪ Text of article	(e.g. News, Sports)

### Search Operators and Search Tips:

- \* **Truncation** – finds variations of a word. Substitutes for any number of characters found at the end of a word. Ex. *endors\** finds either *endorse* or *endorsed* or *endorsement* or *endorsements*.
- ? **Wildcard** – finds variations of the spelling of a word. Substitutes for exactly one character found within a word. Ex. *capit?l* finds either *capital* or *capitol*.
- ! **Wildcard** – finds the singular or plural of a word. Substitutes for one or no characters found at the end of a word. Ex. *athlete!* finds either *athlete* or *athletes*.
- “ ” **Quotes** - use quotes to search for an exact phrase. Ex. “John Kerry” finds that name exactly.
- and** **Logical Operators** (Boolean commands) – *kerry AND vietnam* finds **both** terms in the article.
- or** *kerry OR vietnam* finds articles containing the word *kerry* **or** the word *vietnam* **or** both.
- not** *kerry NOT vietnam* finds articles having the word *kerry* but **not** having the word *vietnam*.

### Sample Advanced Search

If your client wants to find out how campaign advertisements and news coverage on his service in Vietnam has affected McCain in opinion polls, an Advanced search might be more appropriate.

**Advanced Search**  
 Select index to search, then enter search term.

Document Title(ti)	mccain
And Keyword(ke)	vietnam OR record
And Document Title(ti)	opinion OR poll!

[Add a Row](#) **Search**

[Hide search options](#) | [CCL Advanced Search](#)

**Limit results:**

to documents with full text

to document with images

by publication date(s)  All Dates  Before  On  After  Between

\*Any\* July 2008 and \*Any\* Novembe 2008

by publication title:  [Browse Publication Title](#)

by publication subject:  [Browse Publication Subject](#)

by Lexile score

1. In an advanced search, you can indicate where to look for certain terms. Ex. The words *mccain* and *opinion* or *poll* need to be in the titles of articles searched. The words *vietnam* and *record* do not need to be in the title, but do need to be somewhere in the article.
2. We can use the search operator “!” with the word *poll*, to look for both the words *poll* and *polls*.
3. Use Limiters as you would in a Keyword or Relevance search.

**Extra Help:** For more information about using InfoTrac, check out their help section. Just look for the icon at the top of the page.

