

Chapter 3

Using the *New York Times* Search by Subject Archive

About the *New York Times*

Newspapers, also known as periodicals because they are issued in periodic installments (e.g. daily, weekly, or monthly), provide contemporary information. Although they don't have the scholarly authority of academic journals, newspapers are often the best source of the latest information on popular and controversial topics. Political struggles, economic debates, election campaigns and issues, scientific advances, the arts, and contemporary social trends are all extensively covered by periodicals.

Research Navigator gives you access to a search-by-subject archive of articles from one of the world's leading newspapers: the *New York Times*. Since its founding in 1851, the *New York Times* has become the nation's newspaper of record--the publication that other media look to as a guide for coverage and responsible news judgment. The *Times* is still the leader among news organizations in winning Pulitzer Prizes, journalism's top award, with 108 prizes through 2002. It employs more than 1,000 editors, reporters, photographers, artists, and designers in its news department. Its reach is truly global: in 2001, the *Times* had 30 reporters in Washington, D.C.; 30 reporters in U.S. bureaus outside Washington and New York; and 40 staff correspondents and contributors in 26 news bureaus around the world.

While the *Times* is an excellent source for information on current topics, keep in mind that it has daily deadlines, competitive pressures, and fallible editors and reporters--like all newspapers. You need to apply the same skepticism toward the information it provides as you would with any other source. Check factual claims with other sources and be alert for signs of bias and omitted information.

What's in the Archive?

Research Navigator's *New York Times* archive organizes articles published in the past year by more than 138 academic subjects, from accounting to zoology. It only includes articles deemed relevant and timely for research; you will not find recipes or wedding announcements. The *Times* archive contents are updated every day.

The *Times*' regular website, www.nytimes.com, contains the full content of the print edition as well as additional articles and images. The newspaper's own archive includes articles from as far back as January 1, 1996, but at the time this guide was written, the *Times* charged a fee to access articles--except for art, book, and entertainment reviews--that were more than seven days old.

When and How to Use *New York Times* Articles

If you want to know the latest on an issue or breaking news story, check Research Navigator's *New York Times* archive. Want to know the status of congressional action regarding offshore income-tax shelters? What are the most recent developments with charter schools? What are the two major political parties' stands on affirmative action? Go to the relevant subject directory, or do a keyword search, or both.

But if you are researching existential philosophers, European colonialism in the Congo, or the photography of Walker Evans, for example, a newspaper archive is not the place to start. For non-contemporary subjects, especially complex academic topics, you should consider academic journals, subject directories, and search engines for finding online sources. Research Navigator's ContentSelect and Link Library, will help you find directories and search engines more suited to your topic.

Searching the Archive

Search by Subject

Searching the *New York Times* archive by subject is not only easy, it's also more suited to browsing than to finding a specific topic. The "constitutional law" grouping had 2 articles when this was written, the "American government" heading had 88, and the "political science" heading had 878. To search multiple subjects, hold down the Alt or Command key. Articles can be printed or saved

for later use. Be sure to review the citation rules for how to cite a newspaper article in endnotes or a bibliography.



Search by Keyword

“And” Behavior

By default, the search engine only returns pages that match all of the keywords entered in a search query. The more keywords you use, the more refined the search becomes. There is no need to type the word “and” between keywords, as this is done automatically by the search engine.

Case Sensitivity

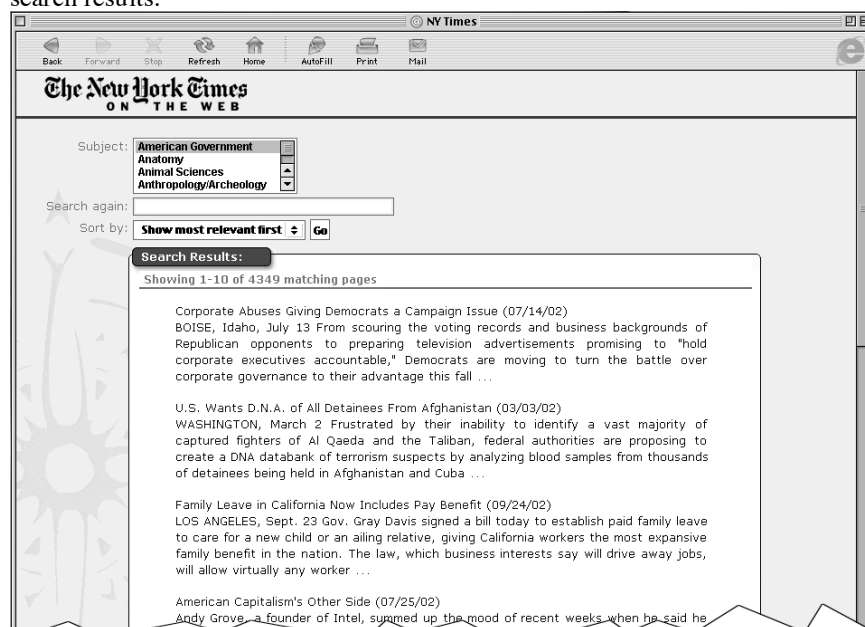
The Search engine does not differentiate between upper and lower case. A search for dna, DNA, or dNa will all return pages containing the keyword “DNA”.

Searching Within Results

Often a first attempt at searching produces too many search results. To narrow the results, you may want to perform a new search that searches only within the results returned by the too-broad search query. This is often called “narrowing a search” or “searching within the current search results.” To narrow a search, all you need to do is add more words to the end of your query. This give you a new query that will return a subset of the pages returned by the too-broad query.

Sorting by Date

The *New York Times* Search by Subject Archive sorts article results by relevance, with the most relevant appearing first. To view the most recently published articles first, use the “Sort by” pull down menu located just above the search results.



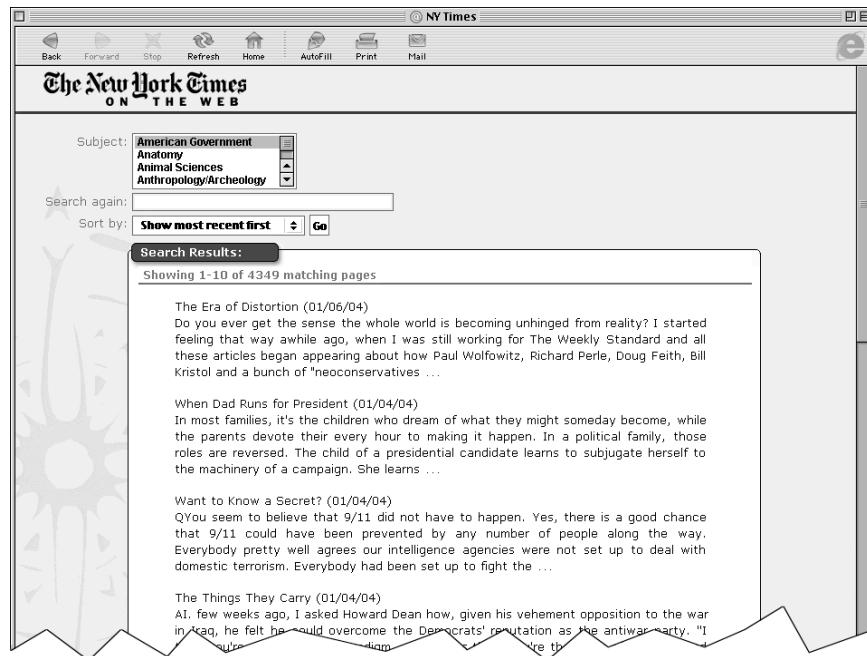
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the New York Times search results page. The browser's address bar shows "NY Times". The page header includes the New York Times logo and navigation icons. The search interface shows a "Subject" dropdown menu with "American Government" selected, and a "Sort by" dropdown menu with "Show most relevant first" selected. The search results are displayed in a list format, showing the first 10 of 4349 matching pages. The first three results are:

- Corporate Abuses Giving Democrats a Campaign Issue (07/14/02)
BOISE, Idaho, July 13 From scouring the voting records and business backgrounds of Republican opponents to preparing television advertisements promising to "hold corporate executives accountable," Democrats are moving to turn the battle over corporate governance to their advantage this fall ...
- U.S. Wants D.N.A. of All Detainees From Afghanistan (03/03/02)
WASHINGTON, March 2 Frustrated by their inability to identify a vast majority of captured fighters of Al Qaeda and the Taliban, federal authorities are proposing to create a DNA databank of terrorism suspects by analyzing blood samples from thousands of detainees being held in Afghanistan and Cuba ...
- Family Leave in California Now Includes Pay Benefit (09/24/02)
LOS ANGELES, Sept. 23 Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill today to establish paid family leave to care for a new child or an ailing relative, giving California workers the most expansive family benefit in the nation. The law, which business interests say will drive away jobs, will allow virtually any worker ...

The fourth result is partially visible:

- American Capitalism's Other Side (07/25/02)
Andy Grove, a founder of Intel, summed up the mood of recent weeks when he said he

“Most Relevant” format



"Most Recent" format