

Following is an example of a Lexis/Nexis citation:

Nsongurua Udombana (Professor of Legal Studies, at the Central European University in Budapest), *San Diego International Law Journal*, Fall 2005. Online. Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe. Feb. 8, 2007.

Notice that each citation includes two dates: the date of the evidence and the retrieval date. The first of these dates is the one that should be cited orally in the debate round. Why is the retrieval date necessary? Material available on the Internet changes day-by-day. For someone trying to verify the accuracy of an Internet citation, it would be essential to know the date of the retrieval. Notice also that the Internet citation lists the URL but that the Lexis/Nexis citation does not.

For subscription databases (such as Lexis/Nexis, ProQuest, Ingenta, and so on), the listing of the URL is unnecessary—the URLs are usually incredibly long and contain information making it accessible only from the same subscriber location as your point of access. Researchers seeking to check the accuracy of their ProQuest document would need to access the database through their own subscription site.

FINDING DEFINITIONS OF TERMS ON THE INTERNET

Debaters often need evidence defining terms such as “juvenile justice” or “public health.” Two Internet search engines provide significant assistance in gathering definitions. Access to more than 1,000 dictionaries is available through www.onelook.com.

Google (www.google.com) also provides two little-known definition tools. The first approach is to enter the term “define” in the main search box, followed by a colon, and then the term or phrase for which you want the definition. Try, for example, the following Google search—define: public health. You will find approximately 10 web-based definitions of the term. Notice the difference made by the colon after the word *define*. If the colon is absent, Google looks for any web pages containing the word *define* and the phrase *public health*. With the colon present, Google detects that you want to examine only those websites that intend to define the specific term *public health*. A second definitional tool built in to Google involves the capability to click any underlined term in a search phrase. Try, for example, entering the phrase “substantially increase.” You will notice that when Google returns the pages for this search, it now also underlines (at the upper-right corner of your screen) each of the words contained in your search. By clicking one of the underlined words, you will see a definition of the term.