



! Nexis Uni®: Inspiring new legal research at UniGe



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI GENOVA

INDUSTRY

Academia

ORGANIZATION

The University of Genoa
Law Library

PRODUCT SUMMARY

Nexis®Uni

Digital tools for efficient, effective research are key to the capabilities of any academic institution—and for the University of Genoa (UniGe)'s Law Library, the legal-area research tool of choice is Nexis Uni.

Used by both law students and professors, the Law Library is the largest section of UniGe's Social Sciences School Library. Dr. Sonia Minetto has worked as a reference librarian in the UniGe Law Library since 1993. She has published contributions to Italian and international reviews of information and education, and she also runs courses on information literacy for Italian universities and organizations.

As a research librarian, Sonia can process 2000 documents per year via Nexis Uni—covering everything from individual cases to news articles. Law students and professors cannot always be up to date with the latest resources available for their research, and Sonia uses the Nexis Uni database to give them an incredibly current overview of the content available to them.

Nexis Uni is the backbone that supports courses essential to UniGe's law curriculum. Its ease of use, combined with its extraordinary depth, makes it invaluable to Sonia—and to the students and faculty for whom she conducts research.

Opening new areas of research

UniGe attracts €28 million in research grants every year, with 200+ ongoing grants allowing the university to provide the best possible electronic resources for students and faculty. Sonia considers Nexis Uni to be the best of all the legal-area research tools she has at her disposal. She says that it does more than offer an essential database of legal reviews: Nexis Uni also has the power to stimulate fresh research.

For a law faculty such as UniGe's, it's vital to stay competitive, and exploring new areas of research is a key part of that. For Sonia, it's important to be able to do more than simply give researchers what they're already looking for. She points out how Nexis Uni enables researchers to find and explore avenues that others are not looking at. It's possible to see which subject areas have already been studied—and this in turn lets researchers identify new areas yet to be explored. In this respect Nexis Uni is Sonia's right arm, allowing her to support law students and professors effortlessly in their legal-area research.

Take, for example, family law—one of the most important areas of interest for UniGe's law faculty. Nexis Uni allows professors to investigate all international and cultural specificities of family law. Research conducted using Nexis Uni has shown how the field is beginning to grow, particularly in relation to Islamic law. Giving faculty a jumping-off point for new research into this area is a perfect example of the way in which UniGe's law faculty rely on Nexis Uni not just for information, but for inspiration.

Keeping courses relevant

The law is an ancient and broad field of study. With enormously diverse areas for modern specialization, it can be hard for aspiring law students to define the direction of their future career.

For UniGe's law faculty, this creates a challenge. How can the faculty develop relevant, modern courses that offer their students a pathway to professional life?

Nexis Uni ensures that a vast number of vetted sources feed the Law Library with rich daily updates, all easily searchable and explorable. Users can search the database for documents that contain or exclude terms, or contain exact phrases—or they can look for documents that contain search terms in specific segments such as headline and lead sections. Searches can be further split into content type, with researchers given a large selection of legal-area research criteria from which to choose. Whether it's statutes and legislation, reviews and journals, or briefs and motions—searches are intuitive and endlessly refinable.

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Nexis Uni is the only digital tool that doesn't just answer a researcher's needs—it lets you anticipate and create new areas of research.



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Information is gold.

Such intuitive functionality makes it easy for Sonia to give professors rich seams of information from which to keep their courses current. Sonia gives the example of a query that she recently ran. When searching the Nexis Uni News section for updated information about surrogacy law, she found a series of articles related to surrogacy “markets” in Ukraine. This piqued the interest of professors, who were able to use the daily updates provided by Nexis Uni to monitor developments as they unfolded, and ultimately to create new content for their comparative private law courses.

Private law isn't the only legal area that has benefited from Nexis Uni in this way. Sonia lists multiple courses that rely on Nexis Uni's rich data, including Comparative Judicial Systems, International Law, and Space Law.

Inspiring the next generation

What's the difference between a Google search and targeted research into one of the many fields of jurisprudence and international law? Reliable research is the lifeblood of the Law Library's academic reputation—and Nexis Uni connects its researchers with legal-area news and reviews that can't be accessed using traditional search engines. Students and faculty get access to cases that are always up to date and organized in ways that streamline research time.

From filtering searches to focusing a search within results, Sonia holds regular seminars to train students how to best use Nexis Uni's feed of English-language sources from around the globe. From case law to landmark cases, students can learn how to take advantage of the extraordinarily rich mine of data that is available. Using Nexis Uni in this way lets them emerge from university prepared for a law career—in which the ability to conduct effective legal research is a crucial tool.

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Research is an attitude.



Ready to start exploring the potential of Nexis Uni?

Connect with one of our specialists to arrange a free trial. Email us:

information@lexisnexis.com

