

## **Searching for Transcripts on IIP's Commercial Online Databases**

Electronic transcripts, including:

- Presidential speeches and news conferences;
  - Congressional committee hearings;
  - Daily White House, State and Defense Department briefings;
  - Important statements and addresses by various high-level USG officials
- are published by the Federal News Service (FNS) and the Federal Document Clearing House (FDCH). The transcripts produced by these two companies are available to all IRCs via three centrally funded databases – FNS, LexisNexis (LN), and Factiva.

High-level U.S. officials are often interviewed on numerous news programs broadcast on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and other networks. The transcripts of many of those shows are also available on LexisNexis, Factiva, and FNS.

This overview identifies which transcripts searchers can typically find in each of the three databases, as well as during the war in Iraq. Tips for searching these databases are also offered. The information in this overview was obtained from source descriptions posted by the databases, correspondence with a database representative, and test searches done late afternoon on consecutive days in Washington, DC.

### **Federal News Service (FNS) Database – <http://www.fednews.com>**

#### **Contains all transcripts produced by FNS**

- During the war in Iraq, FNS said it plans to focus on covering war-related events involving U.S./Allied or Iraqi military and civilian leaders.
- FNS transcripts are loaded into the FNS database immediately upon completion.
- Many congressional hearing transcripts are completed the day the hearing is held, the rest are finished in two days.
- Repeated test searches for FNS transcripts in the FNS database located numerous “same-day” transcripts.
- Transcripts appear in reverse chronological order – most recent transcripts at the top of the page.
- To find current transcripts (last 3 months) browse the list or do a keyword search.
- To find transcripts older than 3 months, search the database's archive.

#### **Contains no transcripts produced by FDCH**

#### **Contains selected transcripts of ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CNN news programs**

- To find network news transcripts on FNS, follow the steps listed above.

### **LexisNexis (LN) Database – <http://www.nexis.com>**

#### **Contains all transcripts produced by FNS (per the licensing agreement between FNS and LN)**

- FNS transcripts appear on LN within 48 hours of publication.
- Repeated test searches for FNS transcripts in LN located no “same-day” transcripts – the earliest the FNS transcripts appeared was the day after the event.

- To search the individual FNS transcripts file on Nexis.com:
  - ✓ Click on the Power Search tab.
  - ✓ Click on the Find More Sources link.
  - ✓ On the Source Directory page, click on the News link.
  - ✓ Click on the By Individual Publication link.
  - ✓ Click on F, and scroll down to Federal News Service.
  - ✓ Click on ADD, and DONE Search Now.
  
- FNS transcripts are also searchable via the Nexis.com group file – Transcripts. To find the Transcripts group file:
  - ✓ On the Source Directory page, click on the News link.
  - ✓ Scroll down the page to find the Transcripts group file on the right.
  - ✓ To see which transcripts are in the Transcripts group file, click on the “i” icon.
  - ✓ Click on ADD, and DONE Search Now.

**Contains transcripts produced by FDCH**

- Current FDCH transcripts are found in four individual LN files – Political Transcripts, Congressional Testimony, Congressional Hearings Summaries, and Federal Department and Agency Documents.
- FDCH transcripts are also searchable via the group file – Transcripts.
- Each FDCH file is updated at varying intervals – from within 3 to 24 hours of publication.
- Repeated searches for FDCH transcripts in LN rarely located “same-day” transcripts – the transcripts typically appeared the day after the event.
- To search the FDCH transcript files on Nexis.com, follow the general steps for searching FNS transcripts on Nexis.com (see above).

**Contains transcripts produced by major news networks**

- LN contains transcripts of U.S. news programs broadcast on ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, Fox, MSNBC, NBC, National Public Radio, and PBS.
- Selected Al Jazeera transcripts in English are now available on LN.
  - ✓ Al Jazeera’s individual file is found under “J” in the LN Source Directory.
  - ✓ Al Jazeera’s transcripts are included in the LN Transcripts group file.
  - ✓ These transcripts are available within one day of publication.
- Network transcript files are updated on LN at varying intervals.
- To determine the lag between when a program is broadcast and its transcript is available:
  - ✓ Find the program’s individual transcript file on the LN Source Directory.
  - ✓ Click on the “i” icon to view the file’s Source Description.
- Repeated searches for network news transcripts in LN located several “same-day” transcripts.
- To search the network news transcript files on Nexis.com, follow the general steps for searching FNS transcripts on Nexis.com (see above).

**Factiva Database – <http://global.factiva.com>**

**Contains FNS transcripts of Russian news events – no FNS transcripts of U.S. news events**

**Contains transcripts produced by FDCH**

- FDCH transcripts are found in three source files in Factiva – Political Transcripts, Congressional Testimony and Government Press Releases.
- FDCH transcripts are also searchable via the Factiva group source – Transcripts.
- FDCH files are updated on Factiva at varying intervals – from within one day to one week after publication.
- Repeated searches for FDCH transcripts in Factiva rarely located “same-day” transcripts – the transcripts appeared the day after the event, at the earliest.
- To search the individual FDCH transcript files on Factiva.com:
  - ✓ On the Search page, click on the Source Browser link.
  - ✓ On the Source Browser page, click on the Create Source List link.
  - ✓ Type a name in the New List box, click on Create List and Close button.
  - ✓ At top of the Source Browser page, click on the Publications and Type tabs.
  - ✓ Scroll down the Type list to Transcripts, click on the plus sign to open.
  - ✓ In transcript list, click on the Congressional Testimony by FDCH, Government Press Releases by FDCH, and Political Transcripts by FDCH links.
  - ✓ Click on the Add Selected Sources button.
  - ✓ Click on the Save List button.
  - ✓ Click on the Add to Search button.
  - ✓ Click on OK.

### **Contains transcripts produced by major news networks**

- Factiva contains transcripts of U.S. news programs broadcast on ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, Fox, MSNBC, NBC, National Public Radio, and PBS.
- Network news transcripts are updated on Factiva at varying intervals.
- For a complete list of available network transcripts and their update schedules:
  - ✓ Click on the plus sign next to Transcripts on the Factiva Source Browser.
  - ✓ Click on the network news program (i.e., CBS News: 60 Minutes).
  - ✓ Click on the View Source Details button.
- Repeated searches for network news transcripts in Factiva located several “same-day” transcripts.
- To search for transcripts of individual network news programs, follow the general steps for searching FDCH transcripts on Factiva.com (see above).
- To simultaneously search all transcripts within the Factiva group Transcripts:
  - ✓ Follow the general steps for searching the individual FDCH transcript files on Factiva.com (see above).
  - ✓ However, do not click on the plus sign next to the term Transcripts.
  - ✓ Instead, click on the term Transcripts, click on the Add Selected Sources button, and complete the last steps.

### **Conclusion**

This overview of the transcripts available on three commercial databases – FNS, LexisNexis and Factiva – points to significant differences in what each database currently provides our IRC and IIP users.

- FNS has the most “same-day” FNS transcripts of presidential addresses, White house and agency briefings, and congressional hearings.
- LexisNexis also has FNS transcripts, but after a lag of at least one day.
- LexisNexis and Factiva have extensive FDCH transcripts – but almost never on the same day the event took place.

- Factiva and LexisNexis hve numerous “same-day” transcripts of daily news programs broadcast on such networks as CNN, CBS, NBC, and ABC. FNS has a few, selected transcripts of these programs.
- Many additional broadcast news transcripts appear on Factiva and LexisNexis after a lag of at least a day.

In practice, this means that our users should find a transcript quickly on FNS – if FNS has covered that event. If FNS has not covered that event, but FDCH has covered it, users will have to wait until the next day (or longer) until they can obtain the FDCH transcript from LexisNexis or Factiva. Given the time lag before FDCH transcripts are available in these databases, though, it is still most efficient to start by searching for USG-related transcripts in the FNS database.

Since many broadcast news transcripts are available “same-day” in LexisNexis and Factiva, it is worthwhile for users to search either of those databases to look for a daily news program transcript. While the odds of finding a particular broadcast news transcript in the FNS database are smaller, it is, nevertheless, also worthwhile to search FNS. Finally, it pays to look at the source descriptions for the transcript files that LexisNexis and Factiva post online. Those descriptions tell the user how long a lag to expect before the transcript is available on the two databases.

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