Exoneration Media Attention
Data Collection Instructions

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STEP I. CONDUCT LEXIS-NEXIS SEARCH

Go to LexisNexis Academic Universe (accessible by going to the Penn State Library's E-Resource List at http://www.lias.psu.edu/alallpsu.html and selecting LexisNexis Academic Universe; if you're working from a non-campus computer, you'll need to type in your Penn State username and password to access the site).

Make sure you're in the "Guided News Search" tab, not the "Quick News Search." Complete the steps as described below:

Step One: Select "General News"

Step Two: Select "Major Papers"

Step Three:
A) Type the following phrase verbatim in the first text box:
death w/3 penalty OR capital w/3 punishment

B) Select "Full Text" from the drop-down menu to the right

C) Select "and" from the drop-down menu to the left of the second text box

D) In the second text box, type the last name of the individual you're searching for, working from the list of individuals exonerated from death row taken from the Death Penalty Information Center's website.

E) Select "Full Text" from the drop-down menu to the right

These entries will instruct Lexis Nexis to search for any article that contains either the words "death" and "penalty" within 3 words of each other or the words "capital" and "punishment" within 3 words of each other and the individual's name.

Step Four: Set the time range to "all available dates."

Step Five: Click "Search"

STEP II. READ FOR RELEVANCE

Skim the article to determine whether or not it is pertinent to this project. Keep in mind that our primary purpose is to track the amount of attention given to the innocence frame – how many articles the average reader sees about questions of fallibility in the system. Specifically, relevant articles are those that meet both of the following criteria:

- The individual mentioned is the correct person exonerated from death row (sometimes articles include mention of a person of the same name, but who has been convicted of another crime and is not the person referenced by the DPIC on their list of exonerated).
- The story includes discussion of the person's innocence or suspected innocence.
    - Articles including discussion of a defendant's rights being violated without mention of innocence should not be included.
    - The discussion of innocence must consist of something more than claims of innocence by the defendant himself/herself.
    - Even if the article tells about a crime that the person committed later, after being exonerated, if the article references the person's original innocence/exoneration, the story should be included.
    - Even if the concept of innocence/exoneration is only mentioned in the title of the article or in a photo caption, the article should still be included.
    - Also relevant are articles subsequent to the exoneration, which focus on prosecutorial misconduct or the defendant seeking compensation for misconduct or wrongful imprisonment.

If the article does not meet these criteria, ignore it and move to the next article listed in the search results.

STEP III: RECORD ARTICLE INFORMATION

For each relevant article, go to the excel file "exoneration_media_coverage.xls" located in file P:\Lobby\Agendas_Project\Death_Penalty\book\data\LexisNexis. Copy and paste the appropriate information for each article into the spreadsheet along with the individual's last name used in the search, so that each row of data represents a single article.