New Research Tool in HEINONLINE
“More Like This”

…and more than *that.*
HeinOnline’s development team loves to make your research experience better. They’ve just begun to work on something for novice and experienced researchers alike.

• They’re using open source natural language processing and machine learning tools to improve search result relevancy, discovery, and faceting
• What does this even mean?
In more basic terms:

- They’re creating programs to read article text to find “interesting words”
- This will help locate similar articles, may help determine article subjects, and explore topical relationships between documents in HeinOnline
- A novice researcher, such as a law student, will be able to find articles more like the one they’re reading (“More Like This”)
- EXAMPLE: Search for *Impeachment AND Nixon* in the Law Journal Library*

*This tool will eventually be expanded beyond the Law Journal Library*
New Research Tool

• From within any article, select the More Like This button, located in the image toolbar.
The program selects the top “interesting words” from the first article and lists articles *most like* the first article, based on similarly occurring “interesting words.”

Users can change the relevancy of each term, or add new terms.

For instance, let’s reduce the relevancy of Meany, Nixon and Watergate and add the word “constitution” to change the scope of our original search.

Compare the results of the original “More Like This” articles with the results after we amended the “Interesting Words.”
New Research Tool

Original

Amended
New Research Tool

Speaking of boosting, **Advanced Search** also has a new BETA tool!

- Use “Keyword Search Builder” to enter keywords and boost them to perform an original search
That’s okay. Here’s a preview of what else this could impact in the near future.

This is neat, but I’m not sure it’s relevant for my research purposes.
New Research Tool

In addition to helping users locate similar articles and perform boosted keyword searches, the natural language processing and machine learning tools could eventually:

- Improve overall search result relevancy
- “Read” articles with predetermined subjects and use that knowledge to apply accurate subject-coding to articles and other documents in HeinOnline which are currently not subject-coded
- Extract topical relationships between material
- Extract entities, such as people, places or organizations from material for more searching and faceting options
- And more! We’ve only just begun exploring this process.
Other databases are doing things like this. Why is it so important that HeinOnline is using this technology?

- The incredible scope of content in HeinOnline is unmatched by any other research database
- Journal and government document coverage is extensive and in most cases dates from inception to current, providing an enormous wealth of both content and metadata for the tool to draw from
- HeinOnline’s development team is using custom processes not available out of the box to revolutionize research
- Follow the HeinOnline blog to get updates on our progress!