US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
High Level Waste Licensing Support Network (LSN) Library
Frequently Asked Questions

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Establishing the ADAMS LSN Library (LSN Library)

Question:

During the training session you indicated that the Commission first directed that the LSN collections provided to the Office of the Secretary (SECY) by the parties should be made public in January 2014, but the project didn't get underway until December 2015. What was the delay?

Answer:

When the Commission gave that direction in January 2014, it also authorized the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to begin work on a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed Yucca Mountain facility and indicated that making the LSN Library public should proceed only when it was clear that the remaining limited Nuclear Waste Fund monies available to the agency were sufficient for both the SEIS work and the LSN Library activity. That point was reached in late 2015 when the SEIS was nearing completion, and so the ADAMS LSN Library project began. The ADAMS LSN Library was made available to the public in August 2016.

Question:

How can you be sure the verification process used in creating the ADAMS LSN Library ensured that all the documents and header information in the original LSN are now available for searching in the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

SECY and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) utilized the Licensing Support Network Administrator's (LSNA) final list of LSN accession numbers and corresponding participant accession numbers as provided to SECY on August 8, 2011, (ML11220A331) to verify the ADAMS LSN Library entries. One hundred and thirty anomalies were found during that verification process and the resolution of those anomalies is documented in the LSN Library Anomaly Resolution document (ML17087A500).

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Question:

What association did the NRC staff, which is a party to the Yucca Mountain adjudication, have with the creation of the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

As was the case with the original LSN, the NRC staff's role relative to creation of the ADAMS LSN Library was the same as any of the other parties to the adjudication, i.e., to provide its documentary material for inclusion in the Library. Although following the suspension of the Yucca Mountain adjudication the staff's LSN collection was stored in ADAMS rather than provided to the SECY, per a June 13, 2011 order of Construction Authorization Board (CAB)-04, regarding creating the public ADAMS LSN Library, that collection was integrated with the other parties' collections to form a unified database. Per the Commission's direction, the technical work creating the ADAMS LSN Library was performed by the agency's Office of the Chief Information Officer under the coordinated supervision of SECY and ASLBP. Also, the LSNA function will remain within ASLBP.

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ADAMS LSN Library Access & Security

Question:

Does the ADAMS LSN Library require a log-in to use?

Answer:

No, the ADAMS LSN Library does not require a log-in to use.

Question:

How many users can access and use the ADAMS LSN library at the same time?

Answer:

The NRC's most recent experience with ADAMS has seen 1200 users connected concurrently without any issues involving access or performance. Overall the NRC has experienced no issues with usage or performance of the LSN Library since it became publicly available in August 2016. However, the NRC will constantly monitor and improve the performance if needed.

Question:

As was the case with the original LSN, are there user limits and priority user access (e.g., NRC staff, parties to the High Level Waste [HLW] Adjudication) for the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

No. The ADAMS LSN Library does not have a licensing or any other limit on how many people can be connected to and using the system at the same time. Because there are no licensing limits, the NRC does not need to establish priority users for the ADAMS LSN Library.

Question:

Any preference for which web browsers to use to access the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

There is no preference for a particular browser for accessing the ADAMS LSN Library. However, it has been the NRC's experience that Microsoft's Internet Explorer has been the most reliable browser to use when accessing the ADAMS LSN Library.

Question:

If someone does not have a computer, can you access the ADAMS LSN Library from a phone or a tablet?

Answer:

The ADAMS LSN Library is browser and operating system agnostic; however, it does not work well on a smart phone as the web page is hard to resize. There has been success using an iPad, but certain features such as right-clicking are not available.

Question:

Do you anticipate there will be a "mobile" version available?

Answer:

At this time there are no plans to implement a mobile version of the ADAMS LSN Library. However, should the HLW proceeding resume and a mobile version is identified as a functional requirement for a reconstituted or replacement LSN, then it would be considered at that time.

Question:

What if the HLW adjudication restarted and a party experienced difficulties in searching or using the ADAMS LSN Library that it felt prejudiced its participation in the proceeding. What should it do to get that issue addressed?

Answer:

If the adjudication restarted, the party would want to bring the matter to the attention of the Commission or the CAB presiding over the portion of the proceeding in which the party is participating.

Question:

As it is a public website, how secure is the ADAMS LSN Library from computer hacking and cyberattack?

Answer:

The NRC secures and monitors all of its many public-facing on-line systems, including the ADAMS LSN Library, and protects the Library with the same vigilance as it does with the agency's own internal sensitive information technology systems. The NRC has a very proactive internal cybersecurity organization that maintains the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of NRC information, including the data in applications like the ADAMS LSN Library. To date, the NRC has experienced no cybersecurity-related issues with the ADAMS LSN Library as the agency continues to meet its cybersecurity obligations as a federal agency.

Question:

Does the ADAMS LSN Library require periodic maintenance? If so, will it be available for use during that period of time?

Answer:

The NRC provides regular updates to the software and equipment supporting the ADAMS LSN Library. Should a maintenance period be required that does not allow users to access the Library, a notice will be provided on the splash page associated with

the ADAMS LSN Library (https://adamspublic.nrc.gov/navigator/) as well as the ADAMS LSN Library home page (https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/lsn/index.html).

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Document Headers

Question:

What are header-only documents and why do I not see them in the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

Parties associated with the HLW proceeding were required to provide electronic access to all of their documentary material (as defined in 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart J [https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/cfr/part002/index.html]) for indexing by the original LSN. However, some of this documentary material was not meant to be shared with the general public (e.g., reports with proprietary information, sensitive internal memos, and documents containing classified information). In addition, some of the documentary material was in the form of geological samples, computer models, and other like objects that also could not be shared electronically with the public at large. In each instance, a header entry was created to identify and describe the document or object. For any header-only documentary material, an interested person would need to contact the owner of that documentary material (e.g., Department of Energy (DOE), NRC, State of Nevada) to request access to view the material.

Question:

How do you open the header for a given document or a header-only entry?

Answer:

Click on the "Properties" icon located above the search results on the left hand side. You can also open the individual facets in the facet tree, as those represent the document's properties as well. It should be noted that some properties may not be applicable to a particular document and some headers will have more information than others.

Question:

Can you tell me why some PDF documents do not open?

Answer:

If the document is a header-only entry, there is no document to open, although you can review the header information relating to the document by clicking on the "Properties" icon located above the search results on the left hand side of the results pane. Also you should confirm you have the proper software available to open PDF documents. To obtain a free viewer for displaying PDF files, see Plugins, Viewers, and Other Tools (https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/plug-ins.html) on the NRC website (https://www.nrc.gov).

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Question:

I noticed that some of the information in the properties field (aka bibliographic information or headers) needs to be updated. Who can I contact to make changes to that information?

Answer:

The ADAMS LSN Library is a "read only," static collection of documents. Should the HLW proceeding resume and the ADAMS LSN Library were to become part of a reconstituted LSN, a process would be put in place to address changes and request corrections to documents and header information in the ADAMS LSN Library. Contacts for each LSN participant also would be available to discuss errors in the header information.

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Accession Numbers

Question:

What is an LSN number? Is it the same as an ADAMS ML number?

Answer:

No. Every document in the LSN has two "accession" numbers. The first is the LSN accession number. When documents were added to the original LSN, they were assigned an LSN accession number. The LSN accession number is comprised of a three-character participant identifier followed by a nine-digit zero-filled sequential number. The other accession number for an LSN document is a participant accession number. The latter number reflects that fact that consistent with standard record keeping practice, as part of its own records keeping system each organization generally has a unique records identification system. Because of federal records requirements, all of the NRC staff's LSN documents are maintained in the ADAMS Main Library, and so each has an ML number. So in the case of the NRC, the participant accession number for the NRC staff's LSN documents is an ADAMS ML number. And as a bit of records trivia, ML stands for Main Library.

One other note. When the original LSN assigned numbers to participant documents, it incremented the number each time a new header/document was added. If a header/document was removed, the LSN accession number assigned to that header/document was not reused. Thus, you may see gaps in the otherwise "sequentially" assigned LSN accession numbers.

Document Dates

Question:

What specific protocols were used by the NRC and DOE to estimate document dates?

Answer:

For documents without a specific date, the NRC used the latest possible date for the document. In contrast, DOE used the earliest possible date for the document. So for example, if NRC authored a report that was dated May 1976 without a specifying a day, NRC would assign the document the date of May 31, 1976, in the document's header information. Conversely, if DOE authored a report that was dated May 1963 without specifying a day, DOE would assign the document the date of May 1, 1963, in the document's header information. If a document did not have a date, both NRC and DOE would assign the document the date of 1901. This was chosen to show that this was a document without a date.

Question:

I noticed that many of the documents that have dates of 1901 have a header date of December 31, 1900. Why not list them as 1900 rather than 1901?

Answer:

Any dates in the ADAMS LSN Library headers came from the original LSN and were provided by the parties themselves. In keeping with CAB-04's order requesting the preservation of the original LSN documents, the NRC did not make any changes to the parties' documents or header information during the creation of the ADAMS LSN Library other than as needed to address anomalies identified during the process to verify that the ADAMS LSN Library incorporated all the documentary material included on the LSNA's 2011 final list of LSN accession numbers.

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Searching the Library

Question:

Any recommended search tips?

Answer:

When crafting and executing a search, try to employ as much information as possible about the document or the subject matter in which you are interested. Do not be afraid to be creative in searching. You can also get familiar with the Library by trying different searches and search types to see the results. Narrowing a search by excluding search terms or limiting the search to a certain date range or author can also be very helpful in providing a more focused response.

Question:

How are the ADAMS LSN Library search results ranked? By date or by frequency?

Answer:

The ADAMS LSN Library default ranking for search results is by relevance. Relevance is defined by the number of times a search term appears in the document in conjunction with the proximity of the search term hits. There are, however, other sorting options that a user can choose for the search results (e.g., by date).

Question:

What are "wildcard" queries and how are they used in the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

"Wildcard" queries are a type of search that is used when you want to incorporate some flexibility into how the search term you are using may be spelled or what exact words were used. For example, using a "?" in a search term will return all variations of the single character that the "?" replaces. For example "yucca m?n" would return variations on the term "yucca mtn". For variations on multiple characters associated with a single word, place an "*" at the end of the search string. Thus, doing this with "calculat*" would find all variations of the word (e.g., calculated, calculations). To find all the documents in the LSN Library, enter your search as "*:*".

Question:

I want to find all documents that were submitted by a specific LSN participant – how do I do that?

Answer:

There are several methods to accomplish this search, but the easiest would be to:

1. Enter "*:*" (i.e., asterisk colon asterisk) into the "Specify Search Terms" text box.
2. Press the search button (magnifying glass) – this will return every document in the LSN Library.
3. Under "Facet Tree," click the arrow next to "Information Source."
4. From there you can check the box next to the specific LSN participant for which you are looking.

5. Click the "New Search" radio button at the bottom of the screen.
6. Then click "Search."

Question:

If in using the information source facet I have identified a particular LSN participant in whose documents I have an interest, can I search just that participant's documents for a particular piece of information?

Answer:

Yes. You can limit a search to just a particular participant's collection of documents. Below are the steps to accomplish this search.

1. Enter "*:*" (i.e., asterisk colon asterisk) into the "Specify Search Terms" text box.
2. Press the search button (magnifying glass) – this will return every document in the LSN Library.
3. Under "Facet Tree," click the arrow next to "Information Source."
4. From there you can check the box next to the specific LSN participant you are looking for.
5. Click the "New Search" radio button at the bottom of the screen.
6. Then click "Search." This will return every document that has the selected "Information Source"
7. Click on "Show Advanced" button.
8. Enter your search criteria within the Words, Date, and/or Field Query.
9. Select the "Add to Search" radio button.
10. Click the "Search" button. This will return every document that includes the selected "Information Source" and "Search Content."

Question:

Are the documents in the ADAMS LSN Library searchable via Google or another search engine?

Answer:

While the ADAMS LSN Library resides on a public-facing website, its information is housed in an information system that cannot be indexed by, or searched by using, websites like Google.

Question:

Why can't I find the presiding officer orders and the pleadings filed by parties to the Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding in the LSN?

Answer:

The LSN is a discovery database built for the HLW adjudication and contains information as described in 10 C.F.R. § 2.1003. Pleadings, orders, and transcripts related to the HLW proceeding can be found in the Electronic Hearing Docket (https://adams.nrc.gov/ehd/).

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Question:

When performing searches and working with search terms, rather than using the query tree, can the additional search words be deleted in the search box and remove the tree?

Answer:

Yes. For additional information, the LSN Library User's Guide (https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1622/ML16229A349.pdf) explains the ADAMS LSN Library capabilities in detail

Question:

Is there a way to cancel a search that is in progress?

Answer:

An in-progress search cannot be cancelled within the ADAMS LSN Library. Users will have to wait for the search to complete to make any changes, fix typos, etc. However, the web browser can be stopped by refreshing the window (typically F5 or the refresh icon), stopping the browser's activity (typically the "X" icon), or closing and then reopening the browser.

Question:

Searches are taking one to four minutes to complete. Is there anything that can be done to speed this up?

Answer:

Typically, the expected time to return search results for the IBM Watson-based ADAMS LSN Library should be under a minute. If it is taking longer than that, you could check to see the number of search results you have elected to return per page, which is on the right side of the results section. Sometimes picking a higher number of results per page can slow down your search returns. You have the option to choose 10, 25, 50, or 100 results per page. If you are experiencing slowness with search returns, it is recommended to choose 10 results per page to speed up the search.

Additionally, slowness could be the result of network slowdowns, computer configuration issues, or web browser functionality. These can be addressed by conducting a speed test of your network connection, checking to see that your computer has the latest patches, and ensuring your web browser and its add-ons are current.

Question:

Do title searches examine the text of the entire document?

Answer:

No, a title search will only look at document titles and will not return information based on a search of the body of the document.

Question:

Do the search returns highlight the search terms used and where they are located in the document?

Answer:

Yes. When a search term is used, if it is found in the title or body of a document, it will be highlighted in the search results.

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Facets/Properties

Question:

The terms "facet" and "property" seem to be used interchangeably. How do they relate to the original LSN bibliographic header information?

Answer:

The terms "facet" and "properties" are synonymous. The information found in the facets/properties in the ADAMS LSN Library is equivalent to the header bibliographic information in the original LSN. The most common of these facets are:

Addressee Name
Each entry in this field is linked to a corresponding entry in the Addressee Affiliation field. You will note that participants submitted this header in different formats. For instance, you might find GRASER DJ or GRASER DANIEL in this field.

Addressee Affiliation
The company, agency, or group of each receiver or the organization to whom the correspondence is addressed if there is no personal receiver. Each entry in this field is linked to a corresponding entry in the Addressee Name field.

Author Name
The name of each person listed on the document as responsible for all or part of its creation. Only personal author names are entered in this field. Corporations as authors are captured in the Author Affiliation field. Each entry in this field is linked to a corresponding entry in the Author Affiliation field.

Author Affiliation
The name of the organization (i.e., company, corporation, or group) with which the author is affiliated at the time the document was created, or the name of the organization responsible for creating or originating the document when there is no personal author. If an author works for one organization and is representing another, both affiliations should have been captured. Each entry in this field is linked to a corresponding entry in the Author Name field.

Date
If the date was unknown, the date should have been estimated. Please note that the DOE and NRC use different estimation dates.

Document Availability
Public or Non-public. Examples of non-public documents may be attorney work product, attorney-client privilege, business proprietary, or copyright.

Document Number
The identifying numbers assigned to a document that distinguishes it from other documents (e.g., DOE Order No., Public Law number, or report number). Document numbers appear (typed or handwritten) on the document itself and are

considered to be control numbers. The Document Number is generally assigned by the issuing agency.

Document Type
The general format or physical presentation of the document. Examples include correspondence, report, or procedure.

Information Source
One of the 24 organizations that submitted the document to the original LSN. This is a property that was added when the participant collections were loaded into the LSN Library. This extra field provided a way to find headers/documents associated with a specific organization without the need to know what three letter designation they were assigned.

LSN Accession Number
A unique identifier assigned to each document entering the system. If a document was withdrawn from the LSN, the LSN Accession Number was not reused.

Package Number
An identifier assigned to all related documents in a group of documents. This field enables a package containing many documents which have relationships among them to be reassembled quickly and easily. An example might be a report and its transmittal letter.

Participant Accession Number
A unique identification number assigned to each document by the participant organization. This number assists the organization in locating documents it has submitted. This field should contain a specific alpha code identifying the participant organization (e.g., DOE, NRC, NEV) and any other alphanumeric scheme which the submitting organization might use in accessioning their own documents. The number used may be the accession number used in the submitting organization's records system. So, for those of you who are familiar with NRC's ADAMS, the NRC's Participant Accession Number is the ML number.

Title
The actual title of the document that should appear on the document. If the actual title is not present for a document, a title must be created.

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Search Results

Question:

I seem to remember the search results in the original LSN producing a much higher number of "hits" than the same search in the ADAMS LSN Library. It thus seems like maybe we aren't getting all the results we used to get. Why is this so different?

Answer:

The Autonomy-based search engine used in the original LSN would return a "hit" count for every instance in which the search term used in a search was found in the document, whereas the Watson-based search engine used for the ADAMS LSN Library tells you the number of documents with the relevant content you are searching for based on your search criteria. That's why the count is lower even though you are getting all the applicable documents. In short, using Autonomy, a document with a specific search term in it ten times would count as ten hits; whereas, with Watson, the same document would only be counted once.

Question:

I recall that the LSN had a "find another document like this one" search functionality. I've been to the ADAMS LSN Library and don't see a way to do that, and it isn't listed on the "differences" slide that was provided as part of the ADAMS LSN Library training session. Is that an available functionality in the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

This specific feature is not currently available in the ADAMS LSN Library. However, by default IBM's Watson uses its artificial intelligence to identify and display the most relevant and related documents for a given search. That being said, the addition of this feature is being evaluated, although at this time we do not have an estimated implementation date. If this feature is added, it will be announced on the "splash" page that will be displayed when you visit the ADAMS LSN Library search site.

Question:

What is a "related" record and how would I go about downloading that document?

Answer:

A "related" record would be a document that is in a package together with another document (i.e., several documents grouped together like a report and its appendices, a concurrence, or a transmittal). In the "Properties" or the facet tree, looking at the "Package Number" field will show what other documents are part of the package. You can click on these items to view the "related" documents.

Question:

What is the difference between a "like" document and a "related" document?

Answer:

A "like" document is one that is determined by the Watson search algorithm used in the LSN Library to be similar (e.g., author, subject, content) to the document you are viewing. A "related" document is one that is directly connected to one or more other documents (e.g., report and appendices). The related documents may or may not be

similar to one another, but are associated with one another because they are part of a larger document or collection. For example, two documents authored by the same person would be "like" documents; whereas, an enclosure to a document would be a "related" document.

How to get Help with the ADAMS LSN Library

Question:

How can I get help using the ADAMS LSN Library?

Answer:

Choose the "Help and References" link on the LSN Library page for user guides as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from the training sessions that have been held. Both of these references are accessible from the "NRC Library" tab on the NRC home page. Additionally, you can contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) for further assistance. The PDR's phone number is 1-800-397-4209 or (301) 415-4737, and PDR staff are available between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Help information also can be found at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/lsn/help-reference.html.