

Video Transcript: Find Information on Mergers and Acquisitions

Hey there, I'm Stephanie from the BRYT team. Today I'll show you how to find information about a company's Mergers & Acquisitions. M&As, as they are known, can be part of a company's business growth strategy. Let's use Magna International as an example. It's a leading Canadian global automotive supplier. Since Magna International is publicly traded, there's a lot of information available. If you access their annual report through Lexis Securities Mosaic and read the Industry Trends and Risks section, you'll see that the company has two major concerns related to their growth, namely their small market share in Asia and expansion into supplying components for hybrid, electric and alternative fuel vehicles. Researching Magna's M&A activities will give us insight into these areas. We can use two business databases to get started: Lexis Nexis Academic and Factiva. While Lexis Nexis Academic shows M&As and the buyers, sellers and numbers associated with them, Factiva searches news outlets for articles about major international financial news. Lexis is a great place to start because it provides access to Mergerstat – a special database that's updated weekly. Its coverage goes back to 1993 and it focuses on publicly announced M&As from the US, US-cross border, and some international transactions. We'll start, as always, at the Library's homepage. Type in Lexis Nexis Academic, and click Find. Click to access this resource. Click Advanced Options. First, Under Content Type, uncheck the Select All box. Second, under Source, type Mergerstat and select Mergerstat M&A Database from the drop-down menu. Under Build Your Own Segment Search, you have several options. Click the Select a Segment drop-down option. You can search Mergerstat for all sorts of combinations, such as Industry, Country, Buyer or Seller. We'll select Company. In the search box, COMPANY (InsertTermsHere) will appear. Click inside those brackets and the phrase will disappear. You can now type your company's name. Click Apply to close the custom search screen. This takes you back to the main search page. Click Search to see your results. We now have 49 reports to review. Sort them by relevance or date. Clicking the most recent M&A deal reveals its value, the target, the buyer, the cost and much more. Lexis Nexis Academic's Mergerstat database gives us a lot of information but Factiva can help us out in other ways. Factiva provides access to business news articles that discuss M&A deals, as well as mergers and acquisitions that are under consideration. We'll start again at the Library's homepage. Type in Factiva and click Find. Then Click to access this resource. The left column lists ten expandable search fields. Expand the Company field and type "magna" into the search field, select "Magna International Inc." from the drop-down menu. Click the 'I' icon to learn more if you're unsure if you're selecting the right company. Next, expand the Subject field and type "merger" into the search box. Select "Acquisitions/Mergers" from the drop-down. Set the date range to "In the last 2 years" and click Search. If you find the results are too overwhelming and want to view a shorter list, click Modify Search. Expand the Source field. From the Select Source Category dropdown menu, select Top Sources, then click Major News and Business Sources. Click Search again and now you'll only see a shorter list of results with content from major business news sources. Voila! We've cut the results by a third. Factiva also offers customer support via live chat 24/7. You can live chat by clicking the Gear Icon, then Customer Service, and Live Chat. Just remember! Using both Lexis Nexis Academic and Factiva helps you understand the complete picture when researching a company's past and future M&A activities. For more tips on business research, check out all the demos on the BRYT site, or the Bronfman Library's YouTube channel.