



General Search Techniques

Term or Technique	Function	Example
AND or "+"	Using AND narrows a search by combining terms; it will retrieve documents that use both the search terms you specify	Portland AND Oregon
OR	Using OR broadens a search to include results that contain either of the words you type in. OR is a good tool to use when there are several common spellings or synonyms of a word	liberal OR democrat
NOT or "-"	Using NOT will narrow a search by excluding certain search terms. NOT retrieves documents that contain one, but not the other, of the search terms you enter Using the subtraction symbol, you can exclude specific terms that you don't want search engines to find.	Oregon NOT travel "cheese sandwich"-grilled
Reverse questions	Search engines look for pieces of text that match your query. Web pages are more likely to contain answers than questions - so search for the answer. Phrase your query how you would expect the answer to read - the difference appears slight, but it makes a huge difference.	"IRS stands for" rather than "What does IRS stand for?"
Dead Link Solutions	Try shortening the URL to the next subheading. Keep doing so until you get to the point that works. Then browse from there to see if you can track down the file that you want.	If http://www.spock.com/jim/life/not_as_we_know_it.html returns an error, try http://www.spock.com/jim/life/ and if you still get an error, try http://www.spock.com/jim/ and so on down to the root domain http://www.spock.com
Parentheses (Nesting)	Use parentheses to clarify relationships between search terms.	(television or mass media) and women
Capital Letters	Most search engines interpret lower case letters as either upper or lower case. Thus, if you want both upper and lower case occurrences returned, type your keywords in all lower case letters. However, if you want to limit your results to initial capital letters (e.g., "George Washington") or all upper case letters, type your keywords that way.	George Washington



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Title Search	The title search instructs the search engine to return web pages where the phrase George Washington appears in the title and the words President and Martha appear somewhere on the page. Like plus and minus, there is no space between the colon (:) and the keyword.	title:"George Washington"
Link Search	Use the link search when you want to know what websites are linked to a particular site of interest.	link:www.pepsi.com

Google Search Techniques

Term or Technique	Function	Example
Search within a specific website (site:)	Google allows you to specify that your search results must come from a given website. For example, the query [iraq site:nytimes.com] will return pages about Iraq but only from nytimes.com.	iraq site:nytimes.com
Fill in the blanks (*)	The *, or wildcard, is a little-known feature that can be very powerful. If you include * within a query, it tells Google to try to treat the star as a placeholder for any unknown term(s) and then find the best matches.	Google *
Different Types of Files	PDF – service oriented architecture filetype:pdf PPT – service oriented architecture filetype:ppt DOC – service oriented architecture filetype:doc	
Find the time of any location		time new york
Calculate with your browser	Every OS has a calculator inbuilt but when the browser is the thing which is constantly open why bother to open up a calculator. Open Google and type your mathematical expression. You can go all the way from basic arithmetic to trigonometrical expressions. This is simply amazing stuff accomplished by Google.	26 * 9000 sin(90) / cos (90)
Compare your currency with others		1 USD in EUR



Google Search Techniques

Term or Technique	Function	Example
Search for specific types of images &imgtype	<p>Searching for images is the most difficult thing because what we expect might not be possibly mapped to a query. Google has a parameter in place for images in situations we need an image which describes a face.</p> <p>Suppose I search for the term "happy" then the Google results page displays smileys. But I would like to use images of happy people. Even if I choose the term as "happy face" the results don't show images which contain people. For this there is a parameter "imgtype" which you can use with the URL. For this put in the URL as follows:</p>	<p>http://images.google.co.in/images?q=happy&imgtype=face</p>
Meanings of any word define	<p>Just use the define: keyword. The meaning would of course be displayed but also a set of other links which might have an alternative definition are also given out with the link to read more about it.</p>	<p>define:bureaucracy</p>