

Five Simple Google Search tools

1. Find synonyms:

When searching, insert the tilde (~) sign immediately before a search term to also include synonyms.

* Example: searching for ~auto loans will also search for car loans.

2. Use wild-cards:

Use the * symbol, which works as a so-called wild card to represent any word.

* Exampe: if you search for Little Red *, you will find such stories as “Little Red Riding Hood” and “The Little Red Hen”, but also the lyrics for Prince’s hit “Little Red Corvette”.

3. Let Google define words for you:

Put define: immediately in front of a term and you will search the web for definitions of that term.

* Example: define:sycophantic, to get a definition of that term.

4. Find out how reliable a site is:

To find out howreliable a website is, it’s useful to see who’s linking to it. Type link: immediately in front of a website address.

* Example: to see who’s linking to the ISM website, search for “link:www.ismanila.org”.

5. Search for similar content:

To search for sites with content related to a site you’ve already found, type in related: immediately before the website address.

* Example: to find sites similar to or related to Facebook, type in related:facebook.com.

Google Search Shortcuts: <http://websearch.about.com/library/cheatsheet/blgooglecheatsheet.htm>

Internet Country Codes: <http://www.learnthenet.com/english/html/85tldn.htm>

Remember: use the **Advanced Search tools!**

Four powerful ways to search with [AltaVista](#)

1. Domain search:

To leave out commercial sites and only search academic sources, search only within .edu or .ac sites. Beware though that not all educational institutions are within the .edu and .ac domains, so you may be limiting the search too much.

Search within a country domain - a general search in English normally gives sources with a Western bias. Limit the search to only a particular country domain to override this bias and find sources from other regions with possibly different viewpoints.

→ For example, the search terms “oil war” will give very different information when searching only Iranian web sites rather than a general search for the same terms. Nearly all the sites on the first page of hits for a general search for this term are US-based. If you limit the search to the domain .gov instead (which means US governmental entities and agencies, such as the White House and the CIA factbook), you get a different perspective again.

* Example: search AltaVista for “domain:ir oil war” or “domain:gov oil war”

For a list of all top-level and country domains, click here: [List of Internet Domains on Wikipedia](#)

2. Host search:

You can choose to search only within a particular website, such as wikipedia or our school site. This allows you to do a targeted search on a particular topic within a large site that you know to be reliable.

* Example: search AltaVista for “host:direct.gov.uk Falkland”

This example searches for information about Falkland within the direct.gov.uk site.

3. Link search:

One way to evaluate a website is to see which other sites on the Internet link to it, i.e. which websites consider this site to be important enough to link to.

* Example: search AltaVista for “link:www.ismanila.org” to see how many websites link to ISM’s school website.

4. Searching for keywords in the title or URL:

You can perform searches that look for keywords in the title of a web page or in the URL itself.

This is sort of the same thing. A page about tigers will probably have the word “tiger” in the title, but the URL may also contain this word (e.g. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger>). Experimenting with both will probably give you the best chance of finding what you need.

* Example: search AltaVista for “title:tiger” or “inurl:tiger” and you will find web pages devoted to the topic of tigers.

Tools for evaluating websites:

www.easywhois.com

To look at who owns a web sites.

www.archive.org

The Wayback Machine, to look back in time