

Getting ~~more~~ ^{better results} out of Google

Google is great, but most searches result in thousands, if not millions, of possibilities. It is not practical to peruse each and every return to find the most relevant site for your search. Here are some tips for refining your Google search to return fewer, but better results.

Common Operators

Google is capable of understanding some symbols in search strings. Operators include:

- + explicit AND
- logical NOT
- "..." exact phrase
- ~ synonym
- OR logical OR
- .. numeric range

Advanced Search Options

define:

define: can not be used in conjunction with other operations or options, but is a quick and easy way to look up a definition.

Example: [define:prestidigitation](#) retrieves online definitions of the word prestidigitation.

site:

site: restricts the search results to specific sites or domains.

Example: searching for [CEBA](#) returns 126,000 possibilities whereas searching for [CEBA site:ku.edu](#) returns only 17 possibilities. Add /pri to restrict the search to the PRI web site and you have only 7 returns.

local:

local: restricts the search to sites specific to the locality you enter.

Example: [pizza](#) returns over 47 million sites where as [pizza local:Lawrence, KS](#) returns only 107.

Google-Related Search Engines

Google Scholar

<http://scholar.google.com/>

Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

Google Print

<http://print.google.com/>

Google Print enables you to search the full text of books. Search results will yield a list of book(s) within Google Print that match your search. Due to copyright restrictions the full text of the book is not returned, only the section or page with the text along with information on the publication.

Google Uncle Sam

<http://www.google.com/unclesam>

Google Uncle Sam automatically restricts search results to federal and state government web sites.

More information on using Google can be found online at: <http://www.google.com/intl/en/about.html>