

Further Googling

Neil Spurgeon, IT Manager at Fareham College has kindly contributed to the series of Google tips available from the RSC South East with this latest instalment to help you get the best out of Google's search facilities

Use the Google toolbar

This is an add-in to Microsoft Explorer and can be obtained from <http://toolbar.google.com>. It includes all of Google's searching facilities and thus allows you to conduct a Google empowered search from any webpage. It also blocks pop-ups.

Synonym search

Often you are not *exactly* sure of what the author will have used so use of the ~ tilde symbol in front of a word will bring up links with similar meanings to the word you have search upon

"**Alice in wonderland**" ~**book** should bring up booklet, pamphlet etc as well as book

"in" options

By default Google searches throughout all parts of a document reporting any use of a given word or phrase based upon metadata and then on content. This often brings up many thousands of search possibilities. Several keywords can narrow this. The **inurl** keyword has already been covered, but consider:

- allintitle:** - this will find if **all** search words are in the **title** of the link
- intitle:** – this will only find if the search word or phrase is in the **title** of the link
- intext:** – this will only return a link if the search word or phrase is **within the text**
- site:** - this will return links from a specific domain or sub domain of the internet
- related:** - this will return pages that are 'similar' to the search page

examples

allintitle:Alice Wonderland wherever both alic and wonderland are in the title

intitle:Alice wherever alic is in the title

intext:Alice wherever alic is in the text

"**Alice in Wonderland**" **site:.cam.ac.uk** will only return items from the Cambridge University domain (site)

related:bbc.co.uk will return media news report publishers such as CNN and the Times

Simplified advanced searching

By using Boolean algebra it is perfectly possible to obtain some of the power of the advanced search without going through all possible dialogue boxes to achieve this. The + plus sign before a word will force inclusion of this word and the – minus sign will omit results containing that specific word. This is best illustrated with a couple of examples.

"**Alice in Wonderland**" **+white -knight -queen** *should get you information about the white rabbit but should ignore data about either of the knights or the queens*

Google groups (see earlier tip sheet)

It needs care and a degree of scepticism but if you cannot find materials especially about obscure medical disorders, very new subject matter or discussions then clicking on the Groups tag on the main Google page will open up discussion boards full of information. The group categories .alt, .misc and .soc should perhaps be avoided but .sci, .humanities, .comp and .biz all have very good discussions on relevant issues available and can lead you to areas you might not otherwise have considered

Special Searches

From the google.com main page if you select more you will be taken to special searches. Of particular value here are the **News Search** (which not only find general news but also has Sci/Tech, Business, Health and Sport functions) and the **University Search** which although decidedly USA focussed can still allow one to explore significant research functions without necessarily investigating too deeply into more complex Athens based tools. To access an even more useful similar approach for the UK you are advised to use the University of Wolverhampton sensitive academic maps from <http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/ukinfo/uk.map.html>

Google labs

Many of the more innovative features of Google are first aired as prototypes at <http://labs.google.com> This offers the chance to try out new search facilities, feed back to Google and discuss with other users to help shape their development and progression to the main Google site. Current projects include



Google Scholar – search journal articles and abstracts. Great potential, though may benefit from more access to full text journals. See discussion area for views of current users

Google Video – search recent TV programmes online, currently limited to a range of US news channels

Google labs is a place to return to from time to time to keep up to date with latest developments from Google