

Advanced Google Search Tips

Calculator:

What it does: basic calculator functions
What to type: 30% of 55, sqrt(4), etc.
What you'll get: the answer

Conversions:

What it does: converts units of measure
What to type: 50 kg in lbs
What you'll get: the converted answer

Definitions:

Word: define:
What it does: defines a word or phrase
What to type: define:necrosis
What you'll get: links to definitions of the word "necrosis"

Exact Phrase:

Symbol: " "
What it does: searches for an exact phrase
What to type: "systemic-onset chronic rheumatoid"
What you'll get: results that include the exact phrase "systemic-onset chronic rheumatoid"

Excluded Words:

Symbol: -
What it does: excludes search results with a particular word or phrase
What to type: overweight therapy -obesity
What you'll get: results about overweight therapy that are not related to obesity

File Types:

Word: filetype:
What it does: limit to specific file type
What to type: filetype:pdf
What you'll get: only PDF documents

Fill in the Blanks:

Symbol: *
What it does: treats the star as a placeholder for any unknown term and then finds the best matches
What to type: Obama voted * on the * bill
What you'll get: stories about different votes on different bills

Linked Pages:

Word: link:
What it does: searches for webpages that link to a particular website
What to type: link:www.usc.edu/nml
What you'll get: websites that link to the USC Norris Medical Library website

Multiple Words:

Word: OR
What it does: searches for webpages that include either word
What to type: allergies Zyrtec OR Claritin
What you'll get: results with the word "allergies" and either "Zyrtec" or "Claritin"

Numerical Ranges:

Symbol: ...
What it does: searches for a range of numbers, dates
What to type: HIV/AIDS 1980...1985
What you'll get: results about HIV/AIDS during the time period of 1980-1985

Public Data:

What it does: presents public data
What to type: trend you want to explore plus city, country, state; e.g., population los angeles
What you'll get: population trends in Los Angeles

Search Exactly as is:

Symbol: + OR “ ”

What it does: matches the search word precisely as you typed it (does not automatically search synonyms)

What to type: +neoplasm OR “neoplasm”

What you’ll get: results with the exact word “neoplasm” (instead of synonyms like “cancer”)

Time:

Word: time:

What it does: displays time of specific city, region, country

What to type: time:Charleston, SC

What you’ll get: the current time for Charleston, SC

Website Specific:

Word: site:

What it does: searches only particular websites

What to type: acupuncture site:edu OR acupuncture site:cdc.gov

What you’ll get: references to “acupuncture” found on .edu websites OR references to acupuncture only from the CDC website

Advanced Google Scholar Tips

Author Search:

Word: author:

What it does: limits search to specific author

What to type: author:brennan

What you’ll get: papers authored by Brennan

Title Search:

Word: intitle:

What it does: returns results that include your search term in the document’s title

What to type: intitle:cancer

What you’ll get: results with cancer in the title

Library Links:

For access to the full-text articles from journals to which USC subscribes, set up your Library Links on Google Scholar Preferences

(http://scholar.google.com/scholar_preferences?hl=en&lr=&output=search).

Other Notable Google Products

Google Books: search the contents of multiple books, or locate and read one particular book. Includes a *Find in a Library* link so users may locate books at their local libraries.

Google Chrome: web browser known for its speed, security, and stability.

Google Docs: create new documents or import them from your computer, and share them with selected people worldwide.

Google Flu Trends (in Google Labs): see up-to-date estimates of flu activity in the United States and Mexico.

Google Images: includes options to limit your image search by size, type, or color.

Google Knol: knols are authoritative articles about specific topics, written by experts. Popular categories include health, science, and education.

Google Reader: constantly checks selected favorite news sites and blogs for new content and displays the sites in one convenient place.

Google Squared (in Google Labs): locate and organize facts from across the web. Google Squared automatically constructs a table of facts about any category you specify.

Google Trends (in Google Labs): see what the world is searching for. Google Trends allows you to enter up to five topics to see how often they’ve been searched on Google over time.