

Internet Tutorials

How to Choose a Search Engine or Directory

- [Fields & File Types](#)
- [Search Logic](#)
- [Search Options](#)
- [Search Results](#)
- [Specialty Searches](#)

Fields & File Types	
If you want to search for...	Choose...
Audio/Music	AllTheWeb AltaVista Dogpile Fuzzle FindSounds.com Lycos Music Lycos Multimedia Search Singingfish
Date last modified	AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search Google Advanced Search HotBot Advanced Search Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Domain/Site/URL	AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Google Advanced Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder SearchEdu.com WhoNu Yahoo Advanced Web Search
File Format	AllTheWeb Advanced Web Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search WhoNu Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Geographic location	Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search HotBot Advanced Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Images	AllTheWeb AltaVista The Amazing Picture Machine Ask.com Images Ditto Dogpile Fuzzle Google Image Search IceRocket Ixquick Mamma Picsearch Pixsy Retrivr Tiltomo WhoNu
Language	AllTheWeb Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search Google Language Tools HotBot Advanced Search iBoogie Advanced Web Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Multimedia & video	All TheWeb AltaVista Blinx ClipBlast Dogpile Fuzzle IceRocket Search For Video Singingfish Vdoogle Yahoo Video Search
Page Title/URL	AOL Advanced Search Fuzzle Google Advanced Search Yahoo Advanced Web Search ZapMeta Advanced Web Search
Search logic	
If you want to use...	Choose...

Boolean operators	AltaVista Advanced Web Search AllTheWeb Advanced Search Dogpile Google [OR only] Ixquick
Full Boolean logic with parentheses e.g., <i>behavior and (cats or felines)</i>	AlltheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Exalead Ixquick MSN Search
Implied Boolean +/-	Most search engines offer this option
Boolean logic using search form terminology	Most advanced search options offer this, including: AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Proximity searching	Exalead Google [by default] Ixquick
Search options	
If you want..	Choose...
Alternative search terms	SurfWax
A user fill-in search form	Many search engines offer this, including: AlltheWeb Advanced Web Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Search Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search MSN Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Search for documents similar to those in existing results	Google
Truncation	Exalead Ixquick
Live human guides	ChaCha
Your search stated in plain English	Ask.com Brainboost Ixquick MSN Search
Translation of pages retrieved as search results, or any text or Web page, to and from selected languages	Babel Fish
An exact phrase within quotations	Most search engines offer this option
An exact phrase from a template choice	Many search templates offer this. For example: AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Fuzzle Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search
Multiple search tools searched simultaneously with duplicate records removed	Chubba Clusty Copernic Don Busca Fuzzle Ixquick Mamma MetaCrawler Query Server SurfWax Yooci more...
Search Results	
If you want...	Choose...
Results based on linking, i.e., number of links from highly rated Web pages	A9 Alexa Web Search AltaVista Ask.com Google Google Web Directory [Many search engines use this technology as part of their results ranking strategy]
Results clustered by concept and/or type of site (often laid out as a "horizontal" list of topics in addition to a single vertical list of results)	Accumo Search AllinOne MetaSearch Ask.com Clusty Don Busca Exalead iBoogie Infonetware metaEUREEKA Kartoo KillerInfo Mooter Quintura Search.com Search AllinOne MetaSearch Ujiko Vivisimo Yahoo! Mindset
Option to search on related topics	AllTheWeb Dogpile Factbites Search.com WhoNu
Results in graphical/visual format	Kartoo Mnemomap Mooter Quintura Ujiko

	Webbrain
Results with thumbnail images of retrieved sites	Don Busca Exalead IceRocket
Queries stored at the site and notification of new results	Google Alert TracerLock
Queries stored by the search service for repeat searches	Copernic
Search results appear as you type	Google Suggest SurfWax LookAhead (RSS feeds)
Specialty Searches	
If you want to search...	Choose...
The Deep Web (not generally covered by search spiders)	Visit a topic-specific engine, e.g., PubMed , or try to locate one using a general search engine.
Blogs	Ask.com Blogdigger Bloglines BlogPulse Blogger Clusty Feedster Globe of Blogs Google Blog Search IceRocket Keotag Sphere Technorati WhoNu Yahoo News Search Zoola
Files in FTP sites (text, multimedia, software, etc.)	Ftpsearchengines.com Oth Net
Library materials	WorldCat
News (multiple sources searched simultaneously)	AlltheWeb: News AltaVista - News Congoo News FindNews.org Google News Alerts InfoGrid NewsNow NewsTrove.com Pandia Newsfinder RocketNews SurfWax News Accumulator Topix.net The WorldNews Network
News (RSS feeds)	Ask.com Daypop Memigo NewsIsFree
Podcasts	Pluggd Podcast.net Podcast Search Service PODZINGER WhoNu Yahoo Podcasts
RSS feeds	Chordata RSSfeeds.com SurfWax LookAhead Syndic8.com
Saved Web pages	Furl Spurl.net
Scholarly materials, e.g., books, articles, etc.	Google Book Search Google Scholar Live Search Books Windows Live Academic
Search trails, e.g., paths taken from search results to selected pages	Trexy
Site analysis	GoLexa
Usenet newsgroup postings	Google Groups
Web events	FindWebEvents.com
Your own customized search engine	Eurekster Swicki Google Custom Search Engine Rollyo
Reference sources (dictionaries, encyclopedias, e-mail and address lookups, calculators, quotations, news, government info, statistics etc.)	Reference Collection (U Albany Libraries)
Professionally maintained directories	About Academic Info BUBL LINK INFOMINE Librarians' Internet Index Intute The Scout Archives Virtual Learning Resources Center WWW Virtual Library more...
Directories maintained by volunteers	JoeAnt Open Directory Project (DMOZ)

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Send comments to [Laura Cohen](#)

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Fields & File Types	
If you want to search for...	Choose...
Audio/Music	AllTheWeb AltaVista Dogpile Fuzzle FindSounds.com Lycos Music Lycos Multimedia Search Singingfish
Date last modified	AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search Google Advanced Search HotBot Advanced Search Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Domain/Site/URL	AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Google Advanced Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder SearchEdu.com WhoNu Yahoo Advanced Web Search
File Format	AllTheWeb Advanced Web Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search WhoNu Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Geographic location	Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search HotBot Advanced Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Images	AllTheWeb AltaVista The Amazing Picture Machine Ask.com Images Ditto Dogpile Fuzzle Google Image Search IceRocket Ixquick Mamma Picsearch Pixsy Retrivr Tiltomo WhoNu
Language	AllTheWeb Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Advanced Search Google Language Tools HotBot Advanced Search iBoogie Advanced Web Search Lycos Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Multimedia & video	All TheWeb AltaVista Blinx ClipBlast Dogpile Fuzzle IceRocket Search For Video Singingfish Vdoogle Yahoo Video Search
Page Title/URL	AOL Advanced Search Fuzzle Google Advanced Search Yahoo Advanced Web Search ZapMeta Advanced Web Search
Search logic	
If you want to use...	Choose...

Boolean operators	AltaVista Advanced Web Search AllTheWeb Advanced Search Dogpile Google [OR only] Ixquick
Full Boolean logic with parentheses e.g., <i>behavior and (cats or felines)</i>	AlltheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Exalead Ixquick MSN Search
Implied Boolean +/-	Most search engines offer this option
Boolean logic using search form terminology	Most advanced search options offer this, including: AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Exalead Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search MSN Search Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Proximity searching	Exalead Google [by default] Ixquick
Search options	
If you want..	Choose...
Alternative search terms	SurfWax
A user fill-in search form	Many search engines offer this, including: AlltheWeb Advanced Web Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search AOL Search Advanced Search Ask.com Advanced Search Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search MSN Search Builder Yahoo Advanced Web Search
Search for documents similar to those in existing results	Google
Truncation	Exalead Ixquick
Live human guides	ChaCha
Your search stated in plain English	Ask.com Brainboost Ixquick MSN Search
Translation of pages retrieved as search results, or any text or Web page, to and from selected languages	Babel Fish
An exact phrase within quotations	Most search engines offer this option
An exact phrase from a template choice	Many search templates offer this. For example: AllTheWeb Advanced Search AltaVista Advanced Web Search Fazzle Google Advanced Search IceRocket Advanced Search
Multiple search tools searched simultaneously with duplicate records removed	Chubba Clusty Copernic Don Busca Fazzle Ixquick Mamma MetaCrawler Query Server SurfWax Yooci more...
Search Results	
If you want...	Choose...
Results based on linking, i.e., number of links from highly rated Web pages	A9 Alexa Web Search AltaVista Ask.com Google Google Web Directory [Many search engines use this technology as part of their results ranking strategy]
Results clustered by concept and/or type of site (often laid out as a "horizontal" list of topics in addition to a single vertical list of results)	Accumo Search AllinOne MetaSearch Ask.com Clusty Don Busca Exalead iBoogie Infonetware metaEUREEKA Kartoo KillerInfo Mooter Quintura Search.com Search AllinOne MetaSearch Ujiko Vivisimo Yahoo! Mindset
Option to search on related topics	AllTheWeb Dogpile Factbites Search.com WhoNu
Results in graphical/visual format	Kartoo Mnemomap Mooter Quintura Ujiko

	Webbrain
Results with thumbnail images of retrieved sites	Don Busca Exalead IceRocket
Queries stored at the site and notification of new results	Google Alert TracerLock
Queries stored by the search service for repeat searches	Copernic
Search results appear as you type	Google Suggest SurfWax LookAhead (RSS feeds)
Specialty Searches	
If you want to search...	Choose...
The Deep Web (not generally covered by search spiders)	Visit a topic-specific engine, e.g., PubMed , or try to locate one using a general search engine.
Blogs	Ask.com Blogdigger Bloglines BlogPulse Blogger Clusty Feedster Globe of Blogs Google Blog Search IceRocket Keotag Sphere Technorati WhoNu Yahoo News Search Zoola
Files in FTP sites (text, multimedia, software, etc.)	Ftpsearchengines.com Oth Net
Library materials	WorldCat
News (multiple sources searched simultaneously)	AlltheWeb: News AltaVista - News Congoo News FindNews.org Google News Alerts InfoGrid NewsNow NewsTrove.com Pandia Newsfinder RocketNews SurfWax News Accumulator Topix.net The WorldNews Network
News (RSS feeds)	Ask.com Daypop Memigo NewsIsFree
Podcasts	Pluggd Podcast.net Podcast Search Service PODZINGER WhoNu Yahoo Podcasts
RSS feeds	Chordata RSSfeeds.com SurfWax LookAhead Syndic8.com
Saved Web pages	Furl Spurl.net
Scholarly materials, e.g., books, articles, etc.	Google Book Search Google Scholar Live Search Books Windows Live Academic
Search trails, e.g., paths taken from search results to selected pages	Trexly
Site analysis	GoLexa
Usenet newsgroup postings	Google Groups
Web events	FindWebEvents.com
Your own customized search engine	Eurekster Swicki Google Custom Search Engine Rollyo
Reference sources (dictionaries, encyclopedias, e-mail and address lookups, calculators, quotations, news, government info, statistics etc.)	Reference Collection (U Albany Libraries)
Professionally maintained directories	About Academic Info BUBL LINK INFOMINE Librarians' Internet Index Intute The Scout Archives Virtual Learning Resources Center WWW Virtual Library more...
Directories maintained by volunteers	JoeAnt Open Directory Project (DMOZ)

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