

# Web Search Tips

## How Search Engines Work

- Search engines **match** terms or keywords. The best searches use accurate keywords combined with the most appropriate **Boolean operators** (AND, OR, NOT), **wildcards** and **phrases**. Natural language (*How far is it to the moon?*) searches are not as efficient as keyword searches (*distance AND moon.*) All search engines work the same way (the web, Lakeland Library and OhioLINK catalogs and in the OhioLINK databases) only the punctuation differs.
- Search engines **rank results** by relevancy or date. **Relevancy** refers to the frequency and placement of keywords found on the webpage. Webpages with keywords in titles/first paragraphs or with keywords occurring frequently rank higher in relevancy than those with a single keyword in the last paragraph.
- **Sponsored links** and top results are often purchased by advertisers regardless of relevancy. Sponsored links may appear at the top or on a sidebar or both. Look further down the page for your results.

### AND + (narrows search) Combines terms

"avian influenza" AND transmission

Requires webpage to have BOTH sets of terms or it's not a match. (Same as "all the words" search)

### OR , (broadens search) Accepts any term

EITHER term will match. (Same

"bird flu" OR "avian influenza"

as "any of the words" search)

### Phrase: terms placed in quotes

"weapons of mass destruction"

returns the exact phrase in quotes

### Wildcard: \* ! \$

psycholog\*

returns psychology, psychologists, psychological, etc.

## Use Advanced Searches

<b>Find results</b>	with <b>all</b> of the words	( = an <b>AND</b> Search)	10 results <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Google Search"/> Choose how many results on a screen from 10 to 100
	with the <b>exact phrase</b>	( = a <b>PHRASE</b> Search)	
	with <b>at least one</b> of the words	( = an <b>OR</b> Search)	
	<b>without</b> the words	( = a <b>NOT</b> Search)	
<b>Language</b>	Return pages written in	any language <input type="text"/>	Choose language
<b>File Format</b>	<input type="text" value="Only"/> return results of the file format	any format <input type="text"/>	Choose format (.doc, .pdf, .ppt)
<b>Date</b>	Return web pages updated in the	anytime <input type="text"/>	Choose how far back (3 mos., 6 mos, a year?)
<b>Numeric Range</b>	Return web pages containing numbers between <input type="text"/> and <input type="text"/>		
<b>Occurrences</b>	Return results where my terms occur	anywhere in the page <input type="text"/>	Choose relevancy by location of terms
<b>Domain</b>	<input type="text" value="Only"/> return results from the site or domain	.org, .gov, .edu <input type="text"/>	Choose domain name

e.g. google.com, org [More info](#)

All web search engines have advanced searches. Advanced searches show Boolean boxes and options to choose format, date range and domain name for a more accurate search producing more accurate results.

For additional assistance, contact the Lakeland Library Reference Desk at  
440.525.7425 or [reflibrarian@lakelandcc.edu](mailto:reflibrarian@lakelandcc.edu)

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## Librarians' Internet Index



The Mission of the Librarians' Internet Index is to provide a well-organized point of access for reliable, trustworthy, librarian-selected websites.

<http://lii.org>

Before you Google, look here! The Librarian's Internet Index lists only the best sites on the web for each topic.

- Directory for websites by broad category
- Simple and Advanced Searches
- Blog, news and librarian-developed search engines
- Valuable search engine tips

## Other Searches

### Clusty

<http://clusty.com>

Clusty lists related subtopics to the left of search results. Handy for narrowing a topic. For instance, searching on moon creates subheadings for photos, moon's orbit, earth and moon, space, astronomy etc. Click on a subtopic and only results that apply to it will appear. Does not search Google or Yahoo.

### Complete Planet

<http://completeplanet.com/>

Find in-depth information with one search through Complete Planet. It scans thousands of searchable databases and specialty search engines that Google misses.

### Dogpile

<http://www.dogpile.com>

Searches Google, Yahoo, LookSmart, Ask-Jeeves/Teoma, Google ADS, MSN search. Sites that have purchased ranking and inclusion are blended in. Watch for **Sponsored by...** links below search results. (From UC Berkeley)

## Google Scholar

Google Scholar searches the web for scholarly journal articles, conference papers, book reviews, etc. in databases and on websites. In Scholar's preferences, users can pick OhioLINK to search for an online copy.

Example:

[World-wide direct uses of geothermal energy 2000 - Find it with OLinks](#) JW Lund, [Geothermics, 2001 - iga.igg.cnr.it](#)

Click on Find it with OLinks.

If full text is available online, just click on the Full text link.

Not all articles are available in full text.

The screenshot shows the OLinks interface. At the top, it says 'OLinks The OhioLINK Linking Service'. Below that, there is a section for 'Full text link:' with a button that says 'View full text of this article in the EIC'. Underneath, there is a section for 'Copies in your library:' with a dropdown menu showing 'Lakeland Community College has:'. Below that, it says 'No print holdings found.' and there is a link to 'Search by title in the Lakeland Community College library catalog.' At the bottom, it shows the citation: 'Lund, "World-wide direct uses of geothermal energy 2000," *GEOTHERMICS*, v. 30 issue 1, 2001, p. 29.'

### InfoMine

<http://www.infomine.ucr.edu>

This website offers a simple search for all topics or specialized search engines for each academic discipline.

### IPL (Internet Public Library)

<http://www.ipl.org>

An excellent online reference room for research on topics, dictionaries, encyclopedias, even literary criticism.

### Wikipedias

These **user-edited** encyclopedias are not authoritative sources of scholarly information. Although many entries are well done, there is no supervision for the accuracy of the content and it can be (and has been) changed at will by another user. **Lakeland Librarians recommend students verify through other scholarly sources any information gathered from a wikipedia.**

Order books, find and read articles, read full-text journals and e-books 24/7 at

**[library.lakelandcc.edu](http://library.lakelandcc.edu)**