

Search Engines Quick Guide

Search Engine	Google	Northern Light	AltaVista	Fast Search	HotBot	Excite
Database	www.google.com	www.northernlight.com	www.altavista.com	www.alltheweb.com	hotbot.lycos.com	excite.com/search
# of Web pages	560 M	280 M	340 M	340 M	280 M	250 M
Newsgroups	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Operators						
To require	+ <i>stop words only</i>	+	+	+	+	+
To exclude	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phrase search	Quotes " "	Quotes " "	Quotes " "	Quotes " "	Quotes " "	Quotes " "
Truncation	No	multiple *, one %; Stems plurals	Asterisk *	No	Asterisk * left and right; Stem from form	No
Boolean	No	and, or, not, ()	Adv Search only: and, or, and not, near, ()	Not direct, template	and, or, not, ()	AND, OR, NOT, ()
Boolean default	And	And	Or	And	And	Or
Capitalization	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Field searches	link:	title: text: url:	title: domain: link: image: text: url: host: anchor: applet:	Advanced only: text, title, url, link, link name	title: domain: several feature: <i>format</i>	Advanced only: domain, country
Special features	Limit by language Caches indexed page - <i>see</i> Show Matches	Limit by date, location(s), Sort by date, Custom folders	Limit by date, location(s), language, Auto phrase detect, Related searches	Advanced only: Limit by domain, language	Limit by date, location, media type, file type, Results grouped, Related searches	Concept searching, Quick results
Strengths						
Strengths	Best for ranking results, based on # of Web pages linked from	Custom folders, Advanced search template	Best searching syntax, Image database, Translates	Fastest, good relevancy	File type search, Advanced search template, Current & special news	News search - 300+ sources; uses link analysis
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