

# Googling for Gov Info

Tips for Using Google Effectively

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## What are you going to show us?

Some cool Google tricks to find government information you need

Some different aspects of Google

## Did you know that Google can be used to limit to...

- A particular site
- A particular type of file
- A time period

You can also exclude words and search for related terms.

## Site:

In Google, you can actually specify a particular type of site to search.

Site:

For instance, you can search for government information on any topic by using site:.gov.

## Examples

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.gov

(we'll come back to this search throughout)

This works with ANY domain name extension:

.edu

.org

Even foreign URLs like .co.uk

## Sonnet's Magic Trick

When I do instruction, I like to tell the students that I can find government information on ANYTHING.

I have them throw out terms, and then I do the site:.gov search.

Let me show you now...

## Benefits of .org sites

Sometimes good information (even government information) can be found on a .org site.

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.org

Using .org is bound to bring up a LOT of Wikipedia entries. I'll show you how to eliminate those later.

## Specific site:

You can use Google to search specific sites...

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:state.gov

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:hrc.org

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:un.org

## Filetype:

Sometimes, you remember an awesome file that you ran across on a website...but you can't remember the name or what site it was on.

Google can help with the Filetype search...

Filetype:

## Examples

Foreign policy LGBT rights filetype:pdf

Unlike the site search, the filetype search does not use a period between the colon and the file type.

But you can also mix and match...

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.gov filetype:pdf

## Some Quick Tricks

Similar To ~

~Native American reservations

Either/Or - |

Eskimo | Inuit | Yupik

## Finding Similar Terms ~

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.gov

vs.

Foreign policy ~LGBT rights site.gov

Let's try it with our complicated .org search...

Foreign policy ~LGBT rights site:.org -  
site:wikipedia.org

## Some More Quick Tricks

Wildcard \*

I like big \* and I cannot lie

Excluding –

Saints –football

## Excluding –

And back to...

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.gov

But we keep getting Wikipedia! I know...

Foreign policy LGBT rights -wiki site:.gov

Or, if you like other wikis...

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.org -site:wikipedia.org

## Using Search Tools to Limit Your Results

And back to...

Foreign policy LGBT rights site:.gov

Limit by time

Limit by types of results

Limit by location

## Time Period ..

You can also limit a search using the time period search.

..

I have to admit that this doesn't work the way you would expect. It limits to the search to those with that time period in the context of the page. To limit the time frame that an item was posted, use the Advanced Search options.



## Example

Bill Clinton presidential campaign 2007..2009

Better with the Search Tools...

## Advanced Search Screen

Demonstration

## Advanced Search Screen

This has gotten trickier to find over the years.

When you are on the Google site, look at the very bottom right for Settings.

This is where Search Settings, Advanced Search, Web History, Search Help, and Send Feedback can all be found.

## Advanced Searching of Images

Now you can search images with Google like never before...

Limit to Size, Color, Type, or Time.

This can be particularly fun if you use Pinterest!

## Other Google Searches

### Videos

State of the Union

### Books

Government Documents Librarianship

Patents: [Google.com/patents](http://Google.com/patents)

Windmill

## The *Other* Google

Google Scholar: [Scholar.Google.com](http://Scholar.Google.com)

Option to search articles, of course...

Or case law!

world wildlife fund world wrestling federation

## Even More...

Demonstration

## Even More...

This too is a little bit hidden.

When you are on the Google site, look at the very top right, next to the Sign In button, and you will see what looks like a grey Rubik's cube.

Click on that. Or just go here...

[www.google.com/intl/en/about/products](http://www.google.com/intl/en/about/products)

## Cool Tricks with Google...

## Quick Answers from Google

Defining a word

`define:term`

Calculating

Remember PEMDAS

Parentheses, Exponents, Multiply, Divide, Add, Subtract

Converting units

Number unit in converted unit

## Google can even Answer Questions...

When is daylight savings time

When is daylight savings time 2020

What day of the week is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Where are the 2018 Olympics

Who is secretary of the Dept of Education

## And tell you the status of your flight

Google the airline and the flight number:

United 1405

JetBlue 1295

American 1805

## And help you find the time...

What time is it in Sochi

What time is it in Hawaii

Set Timer

Set Timer 25 minutes

## Fun Way to Send Google Results...

Let Me Google That For You

<http://imgtfy.com/>

## Google Search Education

<http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation>

Power Searching Courses

<http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/>

## Thank you!

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