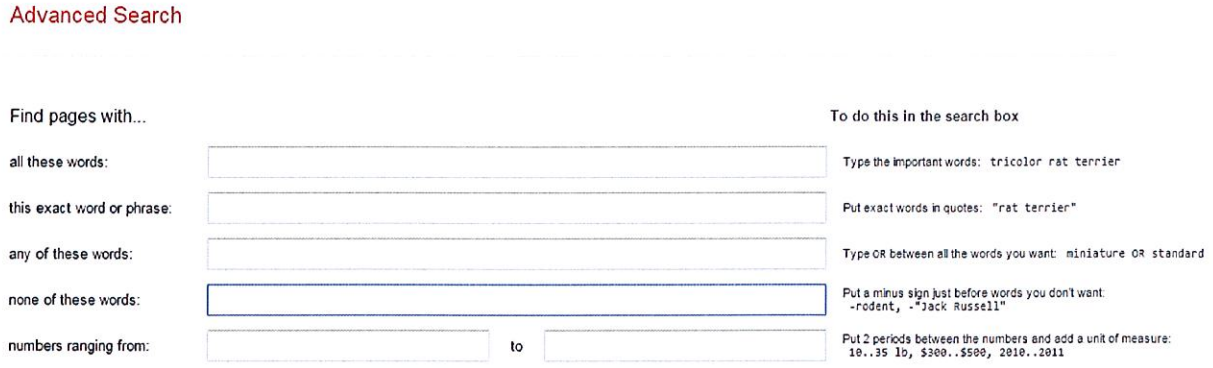
Search Tips

Few people use Google to its full potential. Below are tips that will help you obtain more accurate results and dramatically improve the quality and accuracy of your searches in Google. Give it a try and see the difference!

All examples below use the **Google Advanced Search Engine**. You can access it by visiting www.google.com and clicking on settings at the bottom right- Advanced search. You can also access it on the results page from this icon at the top right:

1. The Advanced Search uses the STRINGS: AND, NOT, and OR.

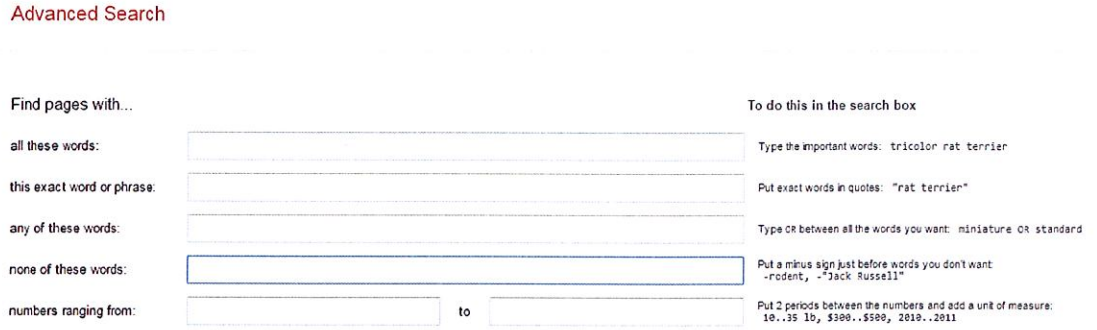


All these words (above picture) allows the **AND** statement (AND is actually not needed in Google since it is inferred when multiple words are put in).

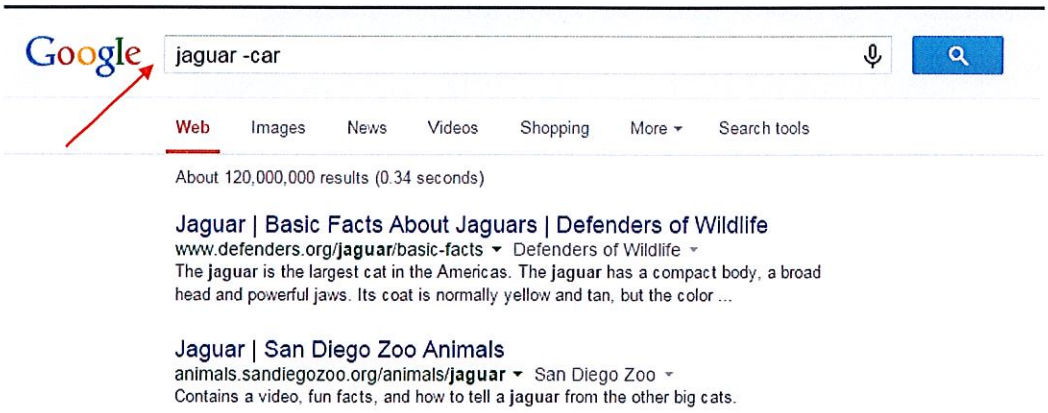
This exact wording or phrase (above picture) allows words to be put together in a **STRING**. In this case Google will look for a string of words that must be together in a website. This is great when looking up an author, movie, quote, or for words that must be kept together. Google Basic Search- Use quotes around phrase to keep in order. Example: "to each his own"

One or more of these words (above picture) this implies an **OR** between the words you want. This is valuable when a researcher wants to look for more than one word but does not want to eliminate a page because all the words cannot be found in a specific page. Google Basic Search- Type **OR** between the words you want to include. Example: world cup location 2014 OR 2018

None of these words (below picture) allows for the **NOT** statement to be used. This is very useful in eliminating unwanted words and results. Google Basic Search- Use the (-) sign to eliminate a word. Example: jaguar –car



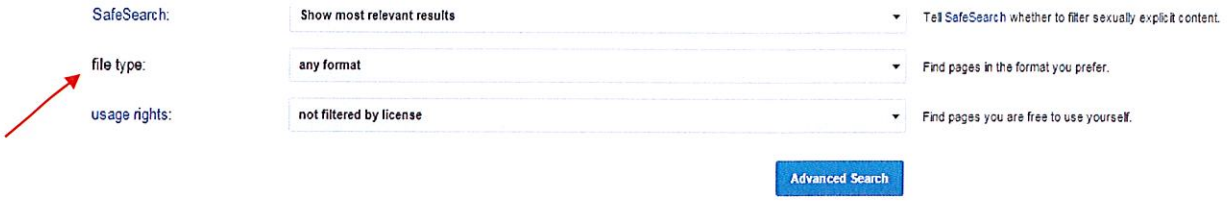
2. The Advanced Search displays how the search would look in a Basic Search after you press the Advanced Search button. Advanced Search



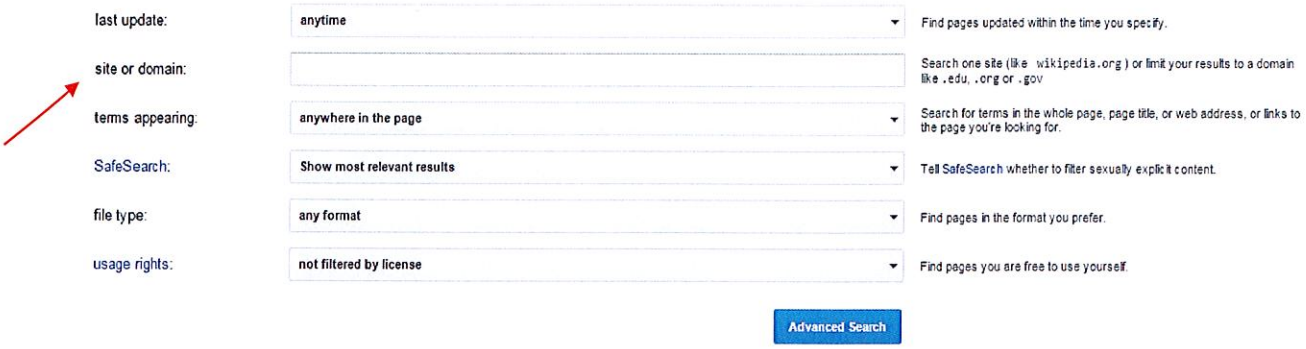
Note in the picture above that a search is being made for the jaguar the animal not the car.

3. The Advanced Search is able to search for pages in any language (below picture). What an awesome way to explore a foreign language you are studying or get primary resources on an event from the source country! You can then enter the website for translation. Translation is usually found at the top of the website.

4. The Advanced Search allows you to search by file type (below picture). This means you can find PowerPoints, Google Earth files, spreadsheets, PDF files, Flash files, Word files, etc. Google Basic Search- use the following search string: "global warming" filetype:ppt (this search string would return PowerPoint presentations on global warming).

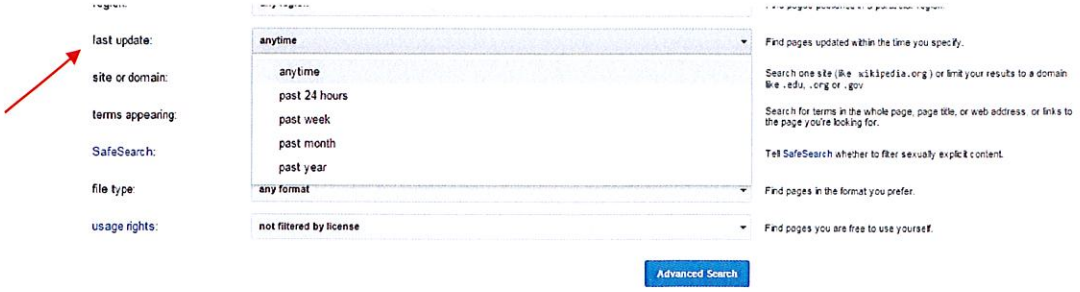


5. The Advanced Search allows you to search inside of a website or domain (below picture). This can be useful for limiting a search to a **.gov** or **.edu**, or possibly to a specific website such as **nasa.gov**, **youtube.com**, or **census.gov**.

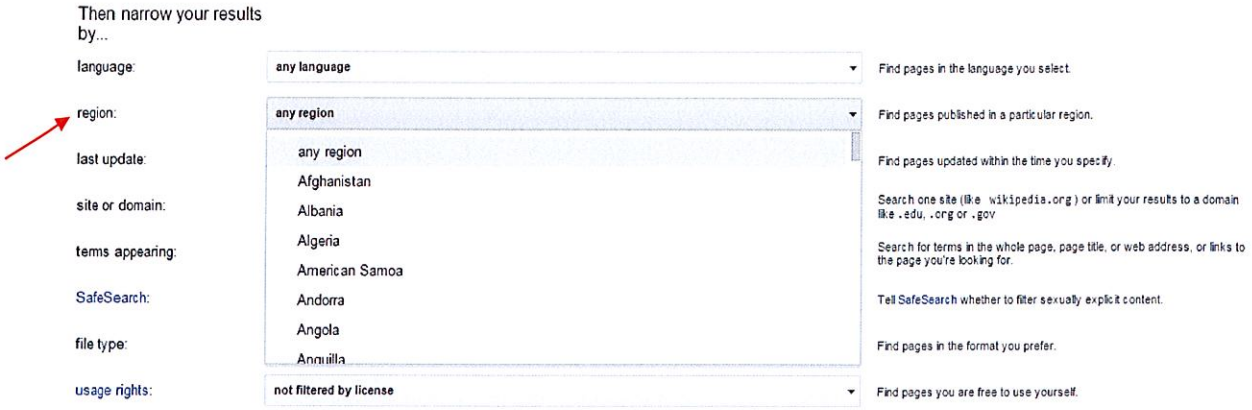


Google Basic Search- use the following search string: "global warming" site:.gov (this search would display government sites on global warming)

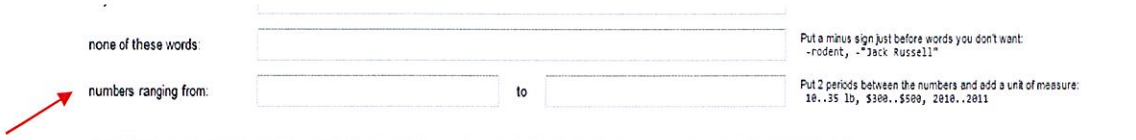
6. Advanced Search can return results according to date (below picture). This is very valuable for finding timely information. You may want to use this feature for looking up a current event or breaking news story. Remember, the default is (**anytime**). This is not available in the Google Basic search box.



7. Advanced Search finds websites from various regions of the world (below picture). This part of the search engine allows you to look up web pages published in a specific region or country. This technique is great for current events, allowing the searcher to get information from the country of origin. You can compare and contrast the same news story coming from two different areas or regions. You can study a subject, such as the American Revolution, from a British, French, Russian, or United States perspective. What is Russia's take on the Space Race, Cuba's thoughts on the Bay of Pigs, or China's research on Global Warming? Google Basic Search- use the following search string: "global warming" site:.cn (this would show sites from China that discuss global warming)



8. Advanced Search allows you to look up information in a numeric range (below picture). Perhaps a researcher wishes to search between a set number of years, such as **1800-1900**. Specifying a dollar amount such as **$250 – $500** or searching for a distance range **10 miles – 100 miles** could be valuable in finding needed information. Google Basic Search- use the following search string: apple iPhone $100..$300 (this would find sites that have iphones priced between $100-$300.



Guide Adapted from: http://novemberlearning.com/blog/2011/04/10/twelve-reasons-to-teach-searching-techniques-with-google-advanced-search-even-before-using-the-basic-search/