# How to be a Google Power Searcher

## Searching Google

This guide covers selected tips and tricks used to refine searches in Google. There is a separate sheet for searching Google Scholar.

## Setting your Preferences

| | |
|---|---|
| Search results | Under **Bibliography manager** – click **Show links to import citations into** and use the drop down menu to click **RefWorks** |
| Library Links | Show library access links for Wilfrid Laurier University – get it! Laurier |

## Default Search Settings Or How Google Interprets your Query:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Implicit AND | Google returns pages that match all your search terms with the term Search terms are automatically combined using AND | |
| Exact Matching | Google returns pages that match your search terms exactly | |
| Word Variations | Google returns pages that match variants of your search terms. This means that it will automatically look for correct spelling of misspelled words | |
| Common-Word Exclusion | Google ignores some common words called "stop words," | the, on, where, how |
| 32-Word Limit | Search queries limited to 32 words | |
| Not case sensitive | Capital letters of search terms are ignored | |
| Search | Searches documents by keyword | |
| Word order | Google gives more priority to pages that have search terms in the same order as the query | |
| Ignoring Punctuation | Google ignores most punctuation and special characters including | . ; ? [ ] ( ) @ / * < > |
| Truncation | Automatic – no additional symbols required to search for alternative word endings | |
| Search results | Displays by relevance attributed to Google's algorithm | |
| Compound words | Searches both the compound word and the with a space between the words | airline   air line |

## Options to refine your search Or Crafting queries with special characters:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **"phrase searching"** | Use quotations marks around phrases | "birds eye" |
| **OR and \|** | Interchangeable use of OR or \|. Results include either search term. OR must be capital letters | tourism OR travel |
| **exclude** | Use –immediately before a search term you want to exclude | wine -barrel |
| **..** | Specify the results contain numbers in a range | 1800..2000 |
| **\*** | Use *, an asterisk character, known as a wildcard, to match one or more words in a phrase (enclosed in quotes) | "Google * my life" |
| **synonyms** | Use ~(the tilde symbol) immediately before a search term to include synonyms | ~tourism |
| **intitle:** | Finds results with your search term in the document title | intitle:tourism |
| **allintitle:** | Finds results with your search terms in the document title | allintitle:confidential |
| **inurl:** | Finds results with your search term in the URL | inurl:healthy |
| **allinurl:** | Finds results with your search terms in the URL | allinurl:google.faq |
| **Info:** | Finds results about the web page | Info:library.wlu.ca |
| **related:** | Finds results with content related to a specific website | related: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ |
| **filetype:** | Limits your search results to a specific file type. Examples of file types include; doc xls ppt mp4 | filetype:pdf |
| **site searching** | Limits your search to searching within a specific site | site:www.library.wlu.ca |
| **link:** | Use to see what sites link to a specific website | link:www.library.wlu.ca |
| **define:** | Find definitions sourced from a range of online resources | define:tourist |

## Advanced Search

Advanced search provides a form to structure your search.

## Alerts

Once you have refined your Advance Search, you can watch for changes in the top 20 results by setting up a Google Alert.

## Ultimate Interface

Test out www.faganfinder.com/google.html. This interface allows you to use the above search features in a form. Or you can check out www.soople.com/soople_int.php.