

Top 10 Tips for Advanced Searching

1. Think before you Google!
Which search features of the major tools are you likely to need? for example numeric range search (Google), RSS feeds search (Yahoo), wild cards (Exalead), quick access to a wide range of tools (Turboscout). Also remember that evaluated subject listings and reference sources might be a quicker way to find the information you need.
2. Make use of the advanced search options of a search tool to help narrow down your search, for example by file type (PDF, Excel, Powerpoint, Word, RSS), type of organisation
3. If you are having problems finding the information you need in one search tool, don't struggle with it - try a different search tool.
4. Try meta search tools to run your query in several tools at once (for example Killerinfo, Ixquick, Turbo10), or to switch quickly from one resource to another (Turboscout)
5. RSS feeds are a good way of keeping up to date on a subject and for delivering alerts. They reduce the load on your email inbox and are easier to scan and read. To find a relevant feed go to the Yahoo Advanced Search screen, type in your search terms and then select RSS/XML from the file format list.
6. Blogs written by experts in their field are another good way of keeping up to date with industry specific events. Incorporate the word blog into your search strategy or use the Blogs tab in Turboscout.
7. For alternative search terms try the synonym search in Google (~); Kartoo which shows the terms extracted from the documents already found; Yahoo (alternative search terms are shown at the top of the results list).
8. If you are uncertain of the spelling of terms try Exalead and use its phonetic search, approximate spelling search.
9. Use the link commands to find similar or related pages. In Yahoo use the link: command to find pages that link to a single known starting page or the linkdomain: command to find pages that link to anywhere on the starting page site. For example:

link:http://www.rba.co.uk/sources finds pages that link to this specific page
inkdomain:rba.co.uk finds pages that link to anywhere on this site.
10. For wild cards and pattern matching use Exalead