How to search the internet properly

There are a few simple tricks when entering search terms in search engines (e.g. Google) to improve your search on the Internet:

Character	Description	Use
"…"	Put quotation marks,	… if all words are to be included in the search result, e.g. in the case of a quotation.
-	Put a minus sign,	… if certain words are not to be included
*	Put a star,	… as a placeholder for an omitted word in a search
PDF	Write the file type before your search terms,	… if you only search for specific file types, e.g.: PDF
site:	Write this word before your search terms,	… if you only want to search on certain websites

Which Internet sites are trustworthy?

There is countless information on the internet on almost every topic. But which of them do you need? And which of them are actually true? Here are a few tips

Start your search …

1. enter your search terms in a search engine (e.g., Google).

2. from the pages offered, choose these:

Sites of daily **newspapers** or **magazines** that are known for their credibility.

Sites from **governments** and **public authorities**

Sites of **educational institutions,** such as schools and universities

Sites of **EU organisations** (for example, the European Commission or the Council of Europe).

Sites of **UN organisations** (for example, Unicef or UNHCR)

Sites of **statistical institutes** (for example, Eurostat or Statista)

Sites of well-known **non-profit organisations**, such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International or World Vision

Wikipedia

Wikipedia is an internet encyclopaedia written by private people. Anyone can contribute text. Nevertheless, the information in it is quite reliable, as all contributions are controlled by the operators. At the bottom of the article, you will always find references that can help you in your search.

How do you know which website you are currently on?

You can always tell by the address or URL right after https://www.

Every website must also have an imprint stating who the website is from.

Other useful addresses for your internet search

Events in the past

With the IRSC search engine you can find images and documents on many historical topics, including slavery and women's rights.

https://irsc.libguides.com/history/specializedprimarysources

General topics

Kid Info was started by a teacher as a resource to help pupils with homework. The site is organised by specific subjects for different grades. In addition to subject help, Kid Info also links to reference resources, including online atlases.

https://kidinfo.com/school_subjects.html

For the older ones, we recommend **Google Scholar**. This is a search engine that makes it easy to search for scientific literature.

https://scholar.google.com/

Factbooks

Search **Wikibooks** - a free library of textbooks, reference books and non-fiction books.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page

... or you can search with a refined search on **Google**:

https://books.google.com/advanced_book_search

Checklist for credible content

➜ Is the text written in a neutral and factual way or does it present an opinion?

➜ Does the text provide an overview of multiple perspectives or does it ask you to believe or do something specific?

➜ Does the text contain spelling or grammatical errors?

➜ Who is the author of the text?

➜ What are the interests of the editors of the website? Is the content intended to inform, entertain, influence or promote?

➜ Who links to the website? Are they serious providers?

➜ If you are not sure, it is better to double-check the information you find.