

Update Your Web Searching Skills

SAMPLE SEARCHES

The Teaching Library, SPRING 2004

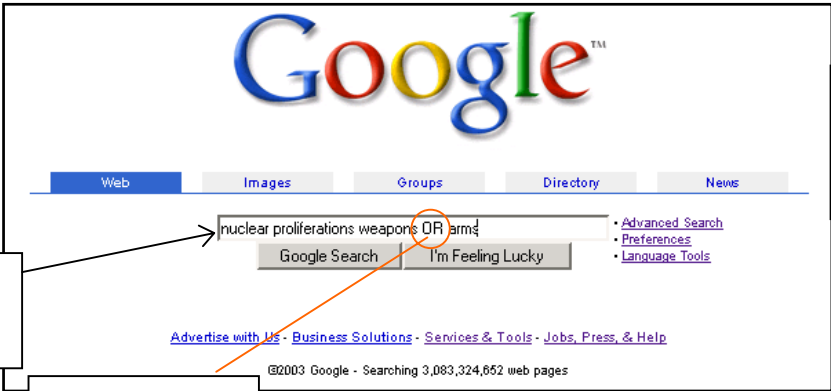
University of California, Berkeley

TOPIC: Nuclear proliferation, in particular as it relates to international peace, security, and welfare.

#1 WHAT ARE THE "BEST" GENERAL SEARCH ENGINES?

GOOGLE (<http://www.google.com>)

- Huge database. Claims over 3 billion, but about 1 billion are not fully indexed and therefore not fully searchable
- Many formats besides Web pages (PDF, Word, Excel, WordPerfect, and more)
- Adequate advanced searching from commands in basic or from Advanced screen. 10 word limit.



The screenshot shows the Google search engine interface. The search bar contains the text "nuclear proliferations weapons OR arms". A red circle highlights the word "OR". A red arrow points from a text box below to the "OR" in the search bar. Another red arrow points from a text box on the left to the search bar. The interface includes navigation tabs for Web, Images, Groups, Directory, and News. Below the search bar are buttons for "Google Search" and "I'm Feeling Lucky". To the right of the search bar are links for "Advanced Search", "Preferences", and "Language Tools". At the bottom, there are links for "Advertise with Us", "Business Solutions", "Services & Tools", "Jobs, Press, & Help", and a copyright notice: "©2003 Google - Searching 3,083,324,852 web pages".

AND assumed.
ALL your terms will
be in results

Capitalize **OR**
to allow for
synonyms or
equivalent words

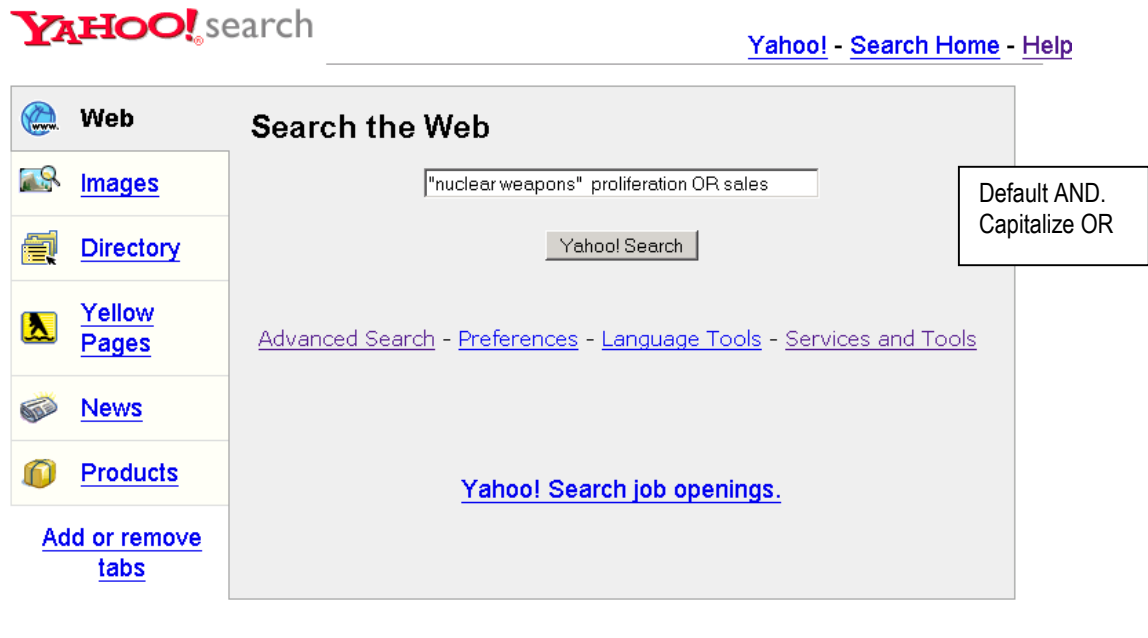
See **TABLE** of
Search Engine Features
for advanced search
options

SAMPLE SEARCHES:

- #1. Keywords and phrases in quotes:
nuclear proliferation
"nuclear proliferation" iran
- #2. OR searches in Google:
"nuclear weapons" proliferation OR sales
"nuclear proliferation" ethics OR "ethical issues"
- #3. Name of an association, society, company, agency, institution, or person.
"national nuclear control institute"
"nuclear threat initiative"
- #4. Search within a site
site:cia.gov "nuclear proliferation"
site:disarmament.un.org "nuclear arms"

Yahoo! search <http://search.yahoo.com>

- Huge (3 billion +)
- Not popularity ranking, but relevancy ranking
- Capitalize OR, AND, or AND NOT. Also accepts parentheses to nest searches.
- Adequate advanced search, similar to Google's. No 10-word limit.



SAMPLE SEARCHES are similar to what works in Google:

- #1. Keywords and phrases in quotes:
nuclear proliferation
"nuclear proliferation" iran
- #2. OR searches in AlltheWeb:
nuclear weapons (proliferation OR sales)
"nuclear proliferation" (ethics OR "ethical issues")
- #3. Name of an association, society, company, agency, institution, or person.
"national nuclear control institute"
"nuclear threat initiative"
- #4. Search within a site
site:cia.gov "nuclear proliferation"
site:disarmament.un.org "mass destruction"

Teoma <http://www.teoma.com>

- Subject-Specific Popularity™ ranking (link analysis within pages on same subject)
- Search results analyzed to provide:
 - REFINE: suggested terms to add to your search
 - RESOURCES: communities, possibly directories, related to your search results
- Smaller database than Google or Yahoo!

The screenshot shows the Teoma search engine interface. The search bar contains the query "nuclear proliferation OR spread". The search results are displayed in a list format. Annotations are present:

- AND assumed:** A box pointing to the search bar explains that "ALL your terms will be in results".
- Capitalize OR:** A box pointing to the search bar explains that this is used "to allow for synonyms or equivalent words".
- Refine:** A box pointing to the "Refine" section explains that it provides "Suggestions to narrow your search".
- Resources:** A box pointing to the "Resources" section explains that it provides "Link collections from experts and enthusiasts".
- Possible directories and expert pages:** A box pointing to the "Resources" section explains that it lists "Possible directories and expert pages related to search".

The search results include:

- 1-10 of about 6,904,000** results for "nuclear proliferation OR spread".
- Nuclear Proliferation News:** A fortnightly digest of news and documents published by DFAX on behalf of the ACRONYM consortium. (www.csf.colorado.edu/dfax/npn/)
- Nuclear Proliferation: INDIA:** A collection of articles on India's nuclear weapons program. (www.bullatomsci.org/research/collections/i...)
- NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION: PAKISTAN:** Until May 1998, Pakistan had never admitted to possessing nuclear weapons--but most experts believed that Pakistan could build them on short notice. (www.bullatomsci.org/research/collections/p...)
- July 9, 1998 A New Approach to South Asia:** Tracking Nuclear Proliferation, 1998, the latest volume in the distinguished Carnegie Endowment non-proliferation series, is an indispensable... (www.ceip.org/programs/npp/track98.htm)
- Carnegie Endowment, Non-Proliferation Project, Tracking Nuclear:** Carnegie Endowment, Non-Proliferation Project, Tracking Nuclear Proliferation, 1998... (www.ceip.org/files/Publications/trackingTO...)
- Documents Relating to Nuclear Proliferation:** Nuclear Proliferation. Nuclear Control Institute. Rand Corporation, "The Proposed Fissile-Material Production Cutoff: Next Steps," 1995... (www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/prolif.htm)
- Documents Relating to Nuclear Proliferation:** Documents Relating to Nuclear Proliferation (www.mtholyoke.edu/...)
- Global Beat: Nuclear Weapons & Proliferation Links...** (www.nyu.edu/...)
- THE GLOBAL BEAT-NUCLEAR WEAPONS & WMD** (www.nyu.edu/...)
- Nuclear Testing in India and Pakistan: Selected In...** (www.lib.berkeley.edu/...)
- Nuclear Studies - Academic Info** (www.academicinfo.net/...)
- A-Z Anti-Nuclear** (www.prop1.org/...)
- Mario's Cyberspace Station: Remember Hiroshima**

- #6. Keywords and phrases in quotes:
nuclear proliferation
site:cia.gov nuclear proliferation OR spread

#2 FINDING EXPERT PAGES IN DIRECTORIES

GENERAL SEARCHING TIPS for ALL DIRECTORIES

- Keep search terms broad □ the concept, the discipline, the broad subject, ~~what it's about~~
- If searching doesn't work, try browsing subject categories
 - Look for an alphabetical list of all subject categories, or an "expanded" list
- Use the tables in the handouts for search tips: directories are even less standardized than

"Translates" complex searches and limit commands for each search engine

LIBRARIANS' INDEX <http://lii.org>

More than 14,000 carefully selected and evaluated resources

Organized into:

BEST OF..., DATABASES (invisible web), DIRECTORIES (gateway pages often), SPECIFIC RESOURCES (more gateways, often)
Invisible Web searchable databases scattered throughout all categories.

- Search by keywords (default)
 - AND between words is assumed
 - STEMS allowing singulars and plurals and often more than you expect
- #7 Sample searches
nuclear proliferation
- #8 Click on Subject Links under descriptions to focus:
Nuclear weapons

INFOMINE <http://infomine.ucr.edu>

About 115,000 research university level sites, heavily annotated, and cataloged in LC classification.

Divided into several databases by subject. Search all from the box at the URL above.

- Search all databases by keywords, subjects, titles, authors (default)
 - * truncates (*river** gets rivers, Riverside, etc.)
 - | | requires phrase or string (*|rivers|* gets only rivers; *|new mexico|* excludes Univ. of New Mexico)
- #9 Sample searches
nuclear proliferation
nuclear weapons

ACADEMIC INFO <http://www.academicinfo.net>

Vast collection of college and university level sites, databases, gateway pages, and more -- classified by subject.

Browse by subjects is recommended approach. Follow links at top to types of sites, including invisible web databases.

- Click on Browse by subjects to get A-Z Subject List <http://www.academicinfo.net/table.html>
#10 Click on **Nuclear studies**

#3 LARGER, LESS EVALUATED DIRECTORIES

GOOGLE DIRECTORY <http://directory.google.com> [or click Directory tab at Google's regular pages]

Over 1 million sites, with Google's popularity ranking

- Use basic searches. Results have your words in the descriptions or in full text of pages (as in Google search).
- Click subject categories to look at subjects within the directory sites

**#11 nuclear proliferation
nuclear weapons**

ABOUT.COM <http://www.about.com>

Over 1 million evaluated sites by about 1,000 guides. Quality uneven.

Click on the guide's name to explore his or her credentials to be an expert in any subject you explore.

- Search a topic – a collection of guides

#12 Search examples:

nuclear proliferation

Note sub-divisions of topic as *A*related search≡ at top

YAHOO DIRECTORY <http://dir.yahoo.com>

About 2 million unevaluated sites, mostly commercial, popular, or of mainstream interest. Some good things.

You cannot get there using www.yahoo.com because this becomes the Google-through-Yahoo search.

- Search a topic or search for **web directories** or **databases**

#13 Search examples:

nuclear web directoires

nuclear databases

nuclear proliferation