**Advanced Searching Tips & Techniques**

The following applies to Google searching.

Note: Better to use less words and use descriptive words

1. **Phrase Search** – put double quotes around a set of words to get those exact words in that order.

2. **Search within a specific website (site:)** – [ “Mississippi River” site:nola.com ] without the brackets will return pages about the Mississippi River from the nola.com website;

[ “Mississippi River” site: .gov ] will return only from a .gov domain

3. **Terms you want to exclude (-) –** puta minus sign immediately before a word to exclude it from a search; you can also use it to exclude a specific site. Ex [ Mississippi -River ] will find Mississippi but not the river.

4. **Fill in the blanks (\*)** – works like a Wildcard, the asterisk is treated like a placeholder that can contain any words/terms. Ex. [ Jindal voted \* on the \* bill ]

5. **Search exactly as is (+)** – works the same as using double quotes around a word, searches for the exact match.

6. **The OR operator** – use when you want to allow either one of several words. Type OR all in caps or use the | symbol.

7. **Exceptions** – commonly used words are usually ignored, such as ‘a’, ‘for’, ‘the’; commonly used punctuation @#$%^&\*()=+ is ignored also unless specified above.

8. **Who owns a domain?**

“The skills needed to read print are not the same set of skills needed to read on the Internet.”

Alan November

a. [www.easywhois.com](http://www.easywhois.com)

b. Enter domain name Ex. [www.stpsb.org](http://www.stpsb.org)

c. Click the Next button

d. Scroll to see owner’s information

9. **See the history of ANY web site**

a. <http://www.archive.org>

b. Type in the URL

c. Click the “Take Me Back” button

d. Shows any web domain from 1996-Present

10. **See the number of sites referencing a particular URL**

a. [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)

b. Type link:www.stpsb.org (or any web site) in the Web search line

11. Cheat Sheet:

a. Convert any measurement: [measurement] to [measurement]; ex. 5000 grams to lbs

b. Convert currencies: [currency] to [currency]; ex. $10 to euros

c. Calculate anything: 15\*8+4= (use \* for multiplication, / for division)

d. Get definitions: define: [word-you-want]; ex. Define: altruistic

e. Get the time anywhere: time [place]; ex. Time St. Martin  
f. Get sunrise or sunset: ex. Sunrise Tahiti or Sunset San Francisco

g. Locate earthquake activity (find the time, place, and magnitude of the most recent): earthquake