

Search Engine Reference Tool

With so many different search engines on the Web, searching for information can be overwhelming if you don't know where to start. This chart outlines some of the major search engines and some of their capabilities so that you may more easily determine which one is best for various searches.

For example, if you were looking for information about student portfolios, your search would be successful using the following word combinations.

Operators Search Engine	Boolean Operators And & Not (+ & -)	Boolean Operator Or	Proximity	Complex Search	Wild Card?	Case sensitive ?
AltaVista Simple Search Altavista.com	+portfolios +student - financial	portfolios student	portfolios ~ student (within 10 words)	Use advanced search	Y	Y
AltaVista Advanced Search Altavista.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • portfolios AND student, portfolios & student • portfolios AND NOT financial 	portfolios OR student	portfolios ~ student (within 10 words)	(portfolios OR student) AND NOT financial	Y	N
Excite Excite.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • portfolios AND student, +portfolios +student • portfolios AND NOT financial, +portfolios - financial 	portfolios OR student	N/A	(portfolios OR student) AND NOT financial	Automatic	N
GoTo Goto.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • portfolios AND student • +portfolios - financial 	portfolios OR student	N/A	Use advanced search	N	N
Lycos Lycos.com	+portfolios - financial	Use advanced search	Use advanced search (within 25 words)	Use advanced search	N	N
Yahoo! yahoo.com	+portfolios - financial	Use advanced search	N/A	N/A	Y	N
Google google.com	+portfolios - financial	portfolios OR student	N/A	N/A	N	N
Metacrawler Metacrawler.com	+portfolios - financial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	Y

Additional Tips:

Using Quotation Marks

Putting Quotation marks around any series of words turns them into a phrase and tells the search engine that you are only interested in documents that have the words in that specific order. For example, if you are searching for information on science portfolios, type "science portfolios" in the search box and the results returned will contain that exact phrase.

Using Wild Cards

When you're not sure how a word is spelled or to find variations of the word, perform a **Wild card** search by adding an **asterisk** at the end or in the middle of words.