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Search tips for academic research

As the amount and variety of content available via the Internet continues to grow, the need for skills required to locate scholarly and credible information for the purpose of academic research increases.

Search engines can return an enormous number of results—many of which won’t be suitable for your scholarly research. To overcome this information overload, try applying some of the basic and advanced search tips below.

Basic search tips

- Keep it simple! Choose a few distinctive words, and use a combination of search terms and author’s surname to further refine your results.
- Google and other search engines ignore common words and characters such as where and how, as well as certain single digits and single letters, because they tend to slow down searches without improving results.
- There is no need to include “AND” between search terms, e.g. mercury AND pollution. The space between words will default to an AND operator. For example, to search for pages containing the word mercury and the word pollution, type: mercury pollution. Add additional terms to narrow a search.
- When phrase searching, simply place quotation marks (“ ”) around two or more words. Common words in a phrase search are included with the search. For example, compare the number of results for “cost of living index” and cost of living index.
- Use the OR operator when searching for synonyms or alternative terms. Note: the OR operator must be written in capitals (this is the only time capitalisation is required). For example, when searching for “tasmanian tiger” OR thylacine, OR must be written in upper case.

Tip: To find out more on Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) refer to ANU Library’s Topic Analysis How to Guide (ql.anu.edu.au/analysis).

- Sometimes we want to exclude words from a search. This is done by placing a minus sign (-) immediately in front of the term to be avoided, e.g. “conflict resolution” -international
- Select a particular format, subject, language; or limit to online items. You can add multiple formats as limits, for example books AND journals.
- Select a date range or decade to limit your results by publication or creation date.
- Do more than one search and use a number of search engines and websites—don’t just rely on Google!
- Evaluate the resources to determine their suitability. Check out the Library’s Evaluating sources guide (ql.anu.edu.au/ojd1) and the checklist at the end of this manual if you need some help with this.
## Advanced search tips

Try using Advanced Search Operators, or field limiters, to search for a word or phrase in a specific part of the document (for example title or abstract) or within a certain website. To do this, place a field limiter before your search term followed by a colon (important: no space after the colon)\(^1\). For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced search operator</th>
<th>What you will find</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>site:</td>
<td>Finds all documents within a particular domain and all its sub-domains</td>
<td>site:qld.gov.au</td>
<td>Retrieves pages from Queensland government sites only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>link:</td>
<td>Finds pages that contain links to the specified URL</td>
<td>link:dfat.gov.au</td>
<td>Retrieves pages with links to DFAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intitle:</td>
<td>Finds pages that have a particular term in their title</td>
<td>intitle:microbiology</td>
<td>Retrieves pages with microbiology in the title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allintitle:</td>
<td>Finds pages that have two or more terms in their title</td>
<td>allintitle:physics cricket</td>
<td>Retrieves pages with physics and cricket in the title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inurl:</td>
<td>Finds web pages that have a specific keyword in their URL</td>
<td>inurl:prime ministers</td>
<td>Retrieves pages with prime ministers in the URL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>related:</td>
<td>Finds web pages that are similar to a specified web page</td>
<td>related:ama.com.au</td>
<td>Retrieves pages similar to the page indicated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The * (asterisk) operator</td>
<td>to match one or more words in a phrase (enclosed in quotes)</td>
<td>&quot;Google * my life&quot;</td>
<td>Retrieves pages with phrases like: &quot;Google changed my life&quot;, &quot;Google runs my life&quot; and &quot;Google is my life&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tip:** Find more operators on Google’s advanced operators reference page (ql.anu.edu.au/gdxg) and note that many of these operators can be used with a number of search engines, not just Google.

\(^1\) Further example searches can be found under the heading Advanced Search operators on page 9 of this manual.
Google

Conduct a quick search from Google’s basic search interface at google.com.au. Google also offers an Advanced Search that enables greater control of retrieved search results.

Tip: The instructions and the images in this manual may appear differently in Firefox, Safari, Chrome or other browsers.

Search settings

Google’s SafeSearch Filters are able to block web pages containing explicit content (both text and images) from appearing in search results.

1. Go to Google> Search Settings> Search results and select the checkbox to filter explicit content from your results.

![Search Settings](image)

2. Select the Save button at the bottom of page.

Note: Find out more about filtering on the Google SafeSearch page.
Internet Research

Languages

Google Languages allows you to change the search interface (Google’s Homepage) to the language of your choice. You are also able to limit search results to specific languages. A translation service is also available from Language Tools.

1. Select Settings on the Google homepage, and then Search Settings

![Google Languages Settings](image)

2. Select Languages

The default language settings will be English. This can be modified by selecting checkboxes alongside required language/s.

3. Under the headings Which language should Google products use? and/or Currently showing search results in, select which language/s you would like to use.

Remember: Limiting your search to one or several languages may reduce the number of your search results.

![Language Settings](image)

4. Select Save after you have made your choices
Advanced Google Search

Click on the Advanced Search heading on the Google homepage.

Search Tips:

With Advanced Search use:

- **With all the Words** when you want to combine words with an **AND**
- **With the exact phrase** when you want the words grouped together
- **With at least one of the words** when you want to combine terms with **OR**
- **Without the words** when you want to exclude a terms with **NOT**

For more on Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and phrase searching refer to the [ANU Library’s Topic Analysis How to Guide](qi.anu.edu.au/analysis).

**Tip:** You can further limit your search by language, region, when the site was last updated, domain, where in the page the search terms appear, and by file type.
Exercise

We are searching for information on a proposed free trade agreement between China and Australia. We want information from Australian government websites only.

Note: To limit your search to Australian Government websites only, enter the Australian government domain code (gov.au) into the Domain field.

Tip: Learning to read domain names will enable you to quickly identify a Web page’s country of origin (e.g., .au, .uk, .jp), and the entity (e.g., .edu, .gov, .org.) that has produced the page.²

² More on domains on page 20 of this document.
Google Scholar

Google Scholar at scholar.google.com.au can be utilised when you need to bypass popular information and only use scholarly information. Google Scholar searches and lists scholarly journal articles. Consider using an appropriate library database (or SuperSearch) instead of Google Scholar as these will usually index a wider range of scholarly material.

Basic Google Scholar searching

Searching Google Scholar is very similar to general Google searching. The default search is a topic (keyword) search.

Google Scholar may also be accessible from a basic Google search results page.

Accessing materials from Scholar

If the item is from an Open Access source or if the ANU has an institutional subscription to that journal, you will be able to download the article in full-text. If you can’t find a link to the full-text article always search for the journal in the ANU Library catalogue.

If the ANU Library does not have an online subscription to a Google Scholar article, DO NOT purchase a copy. Instead, request a copy through the ANU Library’s Article Reach (ql.anu.edu.au/wg36) service.

If the ANU Library does not have a copy of a book located through Scholar (or Google Books, see p.11) ANU staff and postgraduate students can place a request through the ANU Library’s BONUS+ service (anulib.anu.edu.au/bonus).

Tip: Refer to the ANU Library’s How To guide on Using Google Scholar from off-campus (ql.anu.edu.au/scholar) in order to be able to connect directly from your home computer or laptop to the Library’s full-text resources.

Subject coverage on Google Scholar

Google Scholar’s coverage varies across disciplines. Fortunately, the ANU subscribes to a large number of online journals, which can be accessed full-text via Scholar. For example, the ANU subscribes to JSTOR. This means articles available via JSTOR can be downloaded free of charge by ANU staff and students. The online publisher will appear beside the publication name.

Digital literacy training
Internet Research

Advanced Scholar search
1. Go to Scholar at scholar.google.com.au
2. Select the Menu icon at left of screen as shown below.
3. From the list of options displayed, select Advanced Search.

In this Advanced Search example, we will search for content that includes the phrase “climate change” AND the word Australia anywhere in the document dated between 2008 and 2018.
As with other Google Advanced Search functions, the top four search fields facilitate Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) and phrase searching. To find out more, see ANU Library’s Topic Analysis How to Guide (ql.anu.edu.au/analysis).

The following four search fields enable us to further limit the search to:

- Where the search terms appear in the record (body of the article or title)
- Author
- Publication title
- Date range

As shown in the image, below, our search string appears as Australia "climate change". The dates don’t appear in the string but are displayed to the left of the results page.

Advanced Search operators

We can also search using Advanced Search Operators. These are added directly to the search box and can be combined to refine (or broaden) the results retrieved. The examples below demonstrate how the, allintitle, site and author operators can be used.

1. We adjust our initial search to retrieve the search terms in the title. To that end we will use the allintitle: operator. Add the ‘allintitle:’ operator to the search string.

   **Important:** type no space after the colon

   The search string now appears as allintitle:australia "climate change".

2. The search can be further narrowed by specifying content from particular domains, e.g. Australian educational domains. To do this, add the ‘site:’ operator followed by the domain ‘edu.au’. ³

   **Important:** type no space after the colon

   The search string now appears as allintitle:australia site:edu.au "climate change" with greatly reduced results.

³ Refer to the list of Domain Names on page 20
Tip: The search could also be run using the ‘allintext:’ operator and to look for content from Australian government sources: allintext:australia site:gov.au "climate change".

Some additional hints
When an individual or research body repeatedly appears as an author in your results, you may like to try searching for materials just by that author. Retain keywords of your choice, such as “climate change”. To do this, use the ‘author:’ operator and add a name such as “tim flannery” with quotation marks.

For an institution or research body a similar search could be run as: author:CSIRO "climate change"

To identify relevant content from blogs or content that refers to blogs (for example, in the reference list) use the blog: operator.

Scholar Updates: Making new Connections
Scholar Updates is a useful Scholar tool that can help you find new material for your research. For more information read this post (ql.anu.edu.au/eim6) on the Scholar Blog.

In order to receive article updates relevant to your work you need to create a public Google Scholar profile. Visit scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/citations.html#setup (ql.anu.edu.au/0m06) for more information.
eBooks: Google and others

Google books at books.google.com.au can be used to locate bibliographic data about a book (i.e. author, publisher, place and date of publication, etc.).

**Full view:** If a book is out of copyright, or the publisher or rights holder has given Google permission, you'll also be able to view the entire book (page by page) from start to finish. If the book is in the public domain, you'll also be able to download, save and print a PDF version to read at your own pace.

To access Google books, go to books.google.com.au, OR:

1. Go to Google, then select the icon identified in the image below.

2. Select More

3. Scroll down within the frame to locate and select the Books icon.
Exercise:
Search for a book called *The end of poverty how we can make it happen in our lifetime*.

1. Remember to place quotation marks around your search terms as shown below.

2. On the search results page activate the Tools menu (1), select the pull-down arrow alongside *Any books* (2) and select *Google eBooks* (3) as shown below.

3. Select the title to view the book. If the ANU Library does not have the book, refer to the ANU Library’s Document Supply Services page (ql.anu.edu.au/wg36) for other ways to obtain access to it, including the BONUS+ service (ql.anu.edu.au/fdrp).

4. To search within this book, enter the term *economic growth* in the left-hand side search text box. The highlighted terms will appear page by page.
For further information about the book, select About this book.

The details page includes (where applicable):

- Book overview
- Search in this book
- Reviews
- Related books
- Common terms and phrases
- References to this book
- Bibliographic information
- Citation export option

Advanced Search

In search results, select Settings, then Advanced Search

Advanced search allows you to limit your results to full view (1) and to create a more specific search (based on the Boolean operators (2) as with other Google Advanced search functions).
## Other ebook resources

The **ANU Library** provides access to a large number of eBooks, e.g. American Psychological Association ebooks and Taylor and Francis ebooks. Search the Library catalogue for a book and you will be directed to any available eBooks. Alternatively, check the **E-books** subject category on the **E-resources & databases** page of the ANU Library (ql.anu.edu.au/tkv8).

The following table provides a list of alternative websites to locate eBooks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANU Press full-text, print on demand peer-reviewed research publications.</td>
<td>press.anu.edu.au</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathi Trust Digital Library</td>
<td>hathitrust.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Unlatched - offers free access to scholarly content for every reader across the world via library catalogues</td>
<td>ql.anu.edu.au/bmyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Million Book Project via the Universal Library web portal (hosted by Carnegie Mellon University).</td>
<td>ulib.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Library - over 1 million free eBook titles.</td>
<td>openlibrary.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Textbook Library funded, published, and licensed to be freely used, adapted, and distributed.</td>
<td>open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Yao - permanent database of pre-1920 American literature translations into Chinese</td>
<td>yao.eserver.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Digital Library – locate items based on geographical location and timeframe.</td>
<td>wdl.org/en</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Digital literacy training**
Google Images

Enhance and support your written research with quality and credible visual content. However, put your critical eye to work when undertaking your searches and use images sourced from reputable sources. Take care to credit images accurately and adhere to Copyright requirements and legislation.

In this example we will search Google Images. This extensive collection of images is a rich source of visual content.

To search Google Images:

1. Access the Google homepage at google.com.au
2. Select Images from the top right hand corner of the page.

Basic search

To complete a Basic Search:

1. Enter any keywords or phrase into the search box
2. Select the blue search button

In the example below, the search will return images with the term national and the term parks and the term Australia (national AND parks AND Australia) anywhere in the accompanying text.
Advanced search

To access the Advanced Images Search, select the Advanced Search option from the pull-down menu in the right hand corner of the Basic Search results page.

As with Scholar, the top four search fields facilitate Boolean operator and phrase searching. Try limiting your search by size, aspect ratio, colour, type, region, site or domain, file type, and usage rights. For more information about Boolean operators, see the ANU Library’s Topic Analysis Guide (ql.anu.edu.au/analysis).

In this example, we will build upon our Basic Image Search for national AND parks AND Australia.

The search will be narrowed to full colour JPG photos from Australian government websites only. We have not specified the file type or aspect ratio, but wish to retrieve images that are larger than a certain size and free to use, share or modify, even commercially.

Narrow or broaden your search by altering the date range, changing your keywords, the type of image, file format or usage rights specified in your search.

Reverse image Search

Did you know that Google also offers a reverse image search option? You can use a picture as your search to find related images from around the web. For example, if you search using a picture of your favourite band, you can find similar images, websites about the band, and even sites that include the same picture. Use an image saved on your computer or device, such as a photograph or artwork.

Copyright

For more information on copyright for students visit copyright.anu.edu.au/hdr-students or download the ANU Library Copyright Guide for Higher Degree Research Students (ql.anu.edu.au/v4lg). The guide covers the use and reproduction of images for research and teaching purposes, along with locating Open Access materials and Creative Commons licensed resources.
### Theses

*Theses* are valuable sources for in-depth and significant research related to your field of study. Search the suggested resources below to complement the ANU Library’s print collection of ANU PhD theses. Print theses can be searched via the ANU Library catalogue.

### ANU resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANU Library’s <em>Finding Theses</em> guide at <a href="http://ql.anu.edu.au/theses">ql.anu.edu.au/theses</a></td>
<td>Provides access to theses and dissertations you may need to complete your research. Find links to ANU-subscribed resources, Open Access materials and region-specific search options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANU Library’s <em>Copyright and my thesis</em> audio files at <a href="http://ql.anu.edu.au/7a5b">ql.anu.edu.au/7a5b</a></td>
<td>An ANU Library resource that explores the fundamentals of copyright, your rights, third party rights, Creative Commons and the implications of copyright for your thesis, research and publishing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional online resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trove (Australian theses) at <a href="http://ql.anu.edu.au/3mfs">ql.anu.edu.au/3mfs</a></td>
<td>Almost 300,000 Australian theses submitted in, or relating to, Australia. Some are in print format only, others are available online in digital format. Use the <a href="http://trove.nla.gov.au">Trove API</a> to analyse research trends in Australia, or create your own thesis discovery tool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WorldCat at <a href="http://worldcat.org">worldcat.org</a></td>
<td>Search for theses: Run a keyword or topic search then limit your results to theses by selecting the <em>Format</em> filter on the left hand side of the results page.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data

Data repositories provide search options identify files, images, tables, databases, models, computer outputs, and similar digital representations—in other words research data—to support the materials you've found in your research.

Please note researcher permission is often required to access data.

ANU resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANU Library’s Research Data Management webpages  qi.anu.edu.au/n3vz</td>
<td>Provides information to help researchers learn more about planning, sharing, and managing data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANU Library’s Data Management How to Guide   qi.anu.edu.au/data</td>
<td>Introduces researchers to data management including relevant policies, metadata and how to manage, find, cite and store data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANU Copyright at copyright.anu.edu.au</td>
<td>Provides information on general copyright principles and a guide to understanding the basics of copyright for your theses, publications and other work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional online resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Data Australia (RDA) at researchdata.ands.org.au</td>
<td>The primary discovery service for Australian research data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trove at trove.nla.gov.au</td>
<td>Advanced search allows you to limit your search to data sets only. Select the Journals, articles and data sets tab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Smithsonian Institute at si.edu</td>
<td>Discover how to search the many online collections and data sets using the Tools for Researchers pages or search the research publications of the Institute via Smithsonian Research Online (SRO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryad datadryad.org</td>
<td>A curated resource that makes the data underlying scientific publications discoverable, freely reusable, and citable. Dryad provides a general-purpose home for a wide diversity of datatypes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Networked Infrastructure (HuNI) at <a href="https://huni.net.au">https://huni.net.au</a></td>
<td>Data from many Australian cultural websites combined in one database; covers all disciplines pertinent to Australia’s cultural landscape. View collections, search or export and share content.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Archival material

Now it’s time for some lateral thinking to identify gems that may just be the missing piece of your research puzzle!

- Search archival collections for company records, histories of institutions, unpublished and published research material, records of anthropologists, linguists, geographers and historians who have documented their lives and work over decades.

- Use catalogues with an international reach to locate authoritative research materials such as personal papers and photos of local or historic significance as well as digital versions of rare items that aren’t available to the public.

- Identify newspapers, pamphlets, posters, manuscripts and objects that can’t be retrieved by search engines such as Google.

ANU resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANU Digital Collections</strong></td>
<td>Provides access to digital images of manuscripts and photographs in University research collections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at ql.anu.edu.au/u25x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANU Archives</strong></td>
<td>Incorporating the University, Noel Butlin Archives, University Archives and the Pacific Research Archives. The advanced search function enables you to specify the material type for which you wish to search.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at archives.anu.edu.au</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANU Library’s Evaluating Sources Guide</strong></td>
<td>Shows you how to evaluate resources with a critical eye and assess the authenticity and quality of the information found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at libguides.anu.edu.au/evaluating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANU Copyright</strong></td>
<td>Provide information on general copyright principles and a guide to understanding the basics of copyright for your theses, publications and other work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at copyright.anu.edu.au</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Additional online resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trove</strong> at trove.nla.gov.au</td>
<td>Search a huge range of content about Australia and Australians from libraries, museums, archives, research repositories and industry organisations. Locate materials which can't be retrieved when using search engines such as Google. Find out more about searching for archival materials and historical newspapers or check out these short video tutorials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)</strong> at aiatsis.gov.au</td>
<td>The world’s premier institution for information and research about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, past and present. Find out more about the manuscript collection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WorldCat</strong> at worldcat.org</td>
<td>Search the collections of 10,000 libraries worldwide, through a single search interface. Use WorldCat to identify multimedia resources, digital content and authoritative research materials including documents, photos and digital versions of rare items that aren't available to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Europeana</strong> at europeana.eu/portal/usingeuropeana_search.html</td>
<td>Search a huge range of content about Europe provided by partner museums, archives, libraries and audio-visual collections. View the virtual exhibitions or subscribe to be notified of newly added content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Smithsonian Institute</strong> at si.edu</td>
<td>Search the many online collections; discover what is held in the archival collections and how to search these resources most effectively.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Web archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pandora</strong> (Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Resources of Australia) at pandora.nla.gov.au</td>
<td>Australian web archive that collects Australian online publications. Established by the National Library of Australia in 1996, Pandora is especially useful for finding historical electronic documents and the contents of superseded web sites. The Australian Government Web Archive (AGWA) complements content in Pandora.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internet Archive</strong> (WayBackMachine) at archive.org/web</td>
<td>Founded in 1996, it offers permanent access to historical collections that exist in a digital format. Type in a URL and select a date range and to search an archived version of that website. Select from the calendar results to view your chosen web page as it was on the date/s required. You may also like to search for texts, audio, moving images, and software.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beyond the standard search engines

When looking for scholarly resources on the Internet it is essential to think beyond the standard search engines. Included below is a list of selected websites and metasearch engines that may help you locate relevant materials across a variety of subject areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academia.edu</td>
<td>Academia.edu is a platform for academics to share research papers, monitor analytics around the impact of their research, and track the research of academics they follow. This resource contains over 17,500 papers and 2 million research interests. Set up a free profile in order to search content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disconnect.me at disconnect.me</td>
<td>&quot;Disconnect was founded in 2011 on a belief that we all have a right to privacy and that privacy should be the default online.&quot; (&quot;disconnect.me&quot;. Retrieved 2016-01-14.) The disconnect.me search and other Internet activity is encrypted, &quot;...which keeps you safe on public Wi-Fi, prevents wireless eaves dropping and protects you against other online threats.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuckDuckGo at duckduckgo.com</td>
<td>DuckDuckGo (DDG) is an Internet search engine that emphasises protecting searchers' privacy and avoiding filter bubble of personalized search results. DuckDuckGo distinguishes itself from other search engines by not profiling its users and by deliberately showing all users the same search results for a given search term (&quot;dontbubble.us&quot;. Retrieved 2014-09-12.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qwant at qwant.com</td>
<td>Qwant offers several types of results including conventional websites, online stores, news websites and social networks. In Search mode, the results are organised in columns. It is possible to refine the search for each column by typing another keyword.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ResearchGate at Researchgate.net</td>
<td>A collaborative platform with a scientific research focus. Search the more than 100 million items by publication, researcher, data or by research interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer Exemplar at springerexemplar.com</td>
<td>Provides a full-text search tool that visualizes how a particular term or phrase is used in scientific literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Research Network at ssrn.com/en</td>
<td>SSRN's eLibrary provides 718,487 research papers from 331,448 researchers across 24 disciplines including. Search for individual papers and authors or browse SSRN networks and eJournal subject areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitonomy at twitonomy.com and Tweet archivist at tweetarchivist.com</td>
<td>View analytics related to Twitter hashtags. Social researchers and students might like to search hashtags created around prominent events or public debate. Identify trends, users’ geographic location, language, influence, associated tags, images or URLs and limit the results to specific timeframes or dates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfram Alpha at wolframalpha.com</td>
<td>This computational knowledge engine does not search web pages related to your search terms to provide a list of results. Instead, your search is analysed against the knowledge base of stored content – facts, measurements, mathematical equations, history, trends, and calculations – and a specific answer is computed. Take the tour and view the examples by topic page to find out more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yippy at yippy.com</td>
<td>A metasearch engine that retrieves results from multiple databases in one search (discards duplicates). Search results are clustered by sub topic. Other metasearch options include Dogpile, PolyMeta and the &quot;MetaSearch&quot; bar that appears at the bottom of the DMOZ search results page which enables users to run a single search query across multiple search engines (Yahoo, Google, Alta Vista and others).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Domain Names

Domain names (url address) are one of the quickest and most effective ways of identifying a Web page. Learning to read domain names will enable you to quickly identify a Web page's country of origin (e.g., .au, .uk, .jp), and the entity (e.g., .edu, .gov, .org.) that has produced the page.

When you run a search using a search engine, often the full web address will be displayed along with the results. Before opening the web page, you can often check the web address and get an idea of the type of organisation or group who has published the site. This allows you to begin evaluating the quality of the information before you even open it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>What does it mean?</th>
<th>An example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| edu    | An educational institution, e.g.: a university, colleges or high schools. Be careful – primary schools also use .edu | [yale.edu](http://yale.edu) - Yale University, USA  
[uni-stuttgart.de](http://uni-stuttgart.de) - University of Stuttgart, Germany  
[u-tokyo.ac.jp](http://u-tokyo.ac.jp) - University of Tokyo, Japan |
| edu.au | Australian educational institution | [anu.edu.au](http://anu.edu.au) - ANU  
[cit.act.edu.au](http://cit.act.edu.au) - Canberra Institute of Technology  
[unsw.edu.au](http://unsw.edu.au) - University of New South Wales in Sydney  
[kurnaicollege.vic.edu.au](http://kurnaicollege.vic.edu.au) - Kurnai College (high school), Victoria |
| ac.uk  | The .ac refers to “academic” and is used by United Kingdom, Indian and Japanese universities | [ox.ac.uk](http://ox.ac.uk) - University of Oxford, England  
[ed.ac.uk](http://ed.ac.uk) - University of Edinburgh, Scotland  
[u-tokyo.ac.jp](http://u-tokyo.ac.jp) – University of Tokyo  
[du.ac.in](http://du.ac.in) – University of Delhi |
| gov    | Government departments | [defence.gov.au](http://defence.gov.au) - Department of Defence, Australia  
[dfat.gov.au](http://dfat.gov.au) - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia  
[deplu.go.id](http://deplu.go.id) - Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia |
| org    | An organisation, usually non-profit and community groups | [alia.org.au](http://alia.org.au) - Australian Library and Information Association  
[satsonline.org](http://satsonline.org) - South African Theological Seminary |
| asn    | An association | [kooyongltc.asn.au](http://kooyongltc.asn.au) - Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Incorporated  
[apesma.asn.au](http://apesma.asn.au) - Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia |
| com    | Commercial or company | [ebay.com.au](http://ebay.com.au) - an online auction site  
[webshots.com](http://webshots.com) - lovely photographs! |
| net    | A networked organisation | [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) - Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
[blackdog.net](http://blackdog.net) - a fun, children’s game site |
| co.uk  | United Kingdom commercial | [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk) - British Broadcasting Commission  
[bookshop.co.uk](http://bookshop.co.uk) - WH Smith Internet Bookshop |
### Some country domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>pg</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>jp</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>uk</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cn</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>nz</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>vn</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>id</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>bw</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If there is no country code in the domain, the Web page in question originated from the United States.

See [Webopedia](ql.anu.edu.au/bcq6) for a list of domain extensions, including domain suffixes for countries.
Evaluating web material for academic research


Evaluation criteria – checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accuracy</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the author or publisher list their credentials, qualifications or affiliations? If so, can they be verified?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who provides the information? Is the author of the source clearly stated?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the author provide contact details (e.g., an email address) that you can use to ask follow-up questions about the information?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Might the page be ironic? satire? or parody?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there spelling or grammatical errors?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the page design professional looking and user friendly?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it a personal homepage?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the author provided any evidence or other sources to back up their information? Does the resource include sources or references you can check?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can the information be verified elsewhere?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there evidence the information has undergone some peer review process?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this the official site of an organisation or association?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectivity</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the page? Is it simply a marketing tool? Is it pushing a particular ideological agenda?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there evidence of bias in the information?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How detailed is the information?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the information current and up to date?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When was the document produced? When was it last updated?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the page includes links, are they up to date?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Optional exercise

Go to the links below to have a critical look at the sites listed. As assessed against the above criteria, are they credible?

ql.anu.edu.au/4pq8
ql.anu.edu.au/z97y
ql.anu.edu.au/yb56

Other recommended reading


ANU Library Catalog: [http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b3096651](http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b3096651)
Other resources

Training notes

To access training notes, visit the Research & learn webpage [anulib.anu.edu.au/research-learn](http://anulib.anu.edu.au/research-learn) and select the skill area followed by the relevant course. You can register for a workshop and find other information.

Research & learn how-to guides

Explore and learn with the ANU Library’s [how to guides](http://ql.anu.edu.au/howto). Topics covered are:

- Citations & abstracts
- Data Management
- E-books
- EndNote
- Finding books and more
- Finding journal articles and more
- Finding theses
- Increasing your research impact
- NVivo
- ORCiD (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)
- Topic analysis
- Using Google scholar from off-campus

Subject guides

Find [subject-specific guides](http://ql.anu.edu.au/subjectguides) and resources on broad range of disciplines. Such as:

- History, indigenous studies, linguistics and philosophy
- Criminal, human rights and taxation law
- Biochemistry and molecular biology, neurosciences and psychology
- Asia Pacific, Southeast Asia and East Asian studies
- Engineering
- Astronomy and astrophysics, earth sciences, mathematical sciences and natural hazards

Online learning

Online learning is available through [ANU Pulse](http://ql.anu.edu.au/pulse), which can be accessed from both on and off campus by all ANU staff and students.

IT skills development modules available in ANU Pulse

- Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, OneNote, Outlook, PowerPoint, Project, Visio, Word)
- Microsoft Office (Mac)
- Adobe suite (Illustrator, Photoshop)
- Type IT

Training calendar


**Feedback**

Please provide feedback about today’s workshop via an [online feedback form](http://ql.anu.edu.au/survey).