

# Jericho Middle School



## Internet Search Tips

### Internet Search Engines

A search engine is a computer that seeks out files or “pages” on the Internet that contain the word or phrase you are interested in.

Some search engines are more powerful than others, some have greater searching capabilities. You may get different results searching the same terms using different search engines.

Each search engine provides its own help page explaining the best ways to use that particular system. The more familiar you are with the search engine, the better your results will be.

The following are general tips for searching the Internet using search engines:

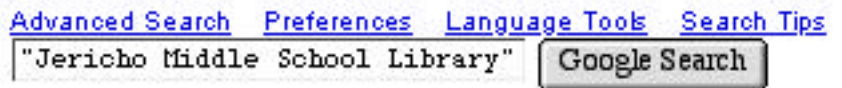
#### Capitalize names of people and place:

If you don't capitalize a name or title it may be treated like any other group of words.

#### Use quotation marks ( “ ” ) around words or hyphens ( - ) with no spaces between words that must appear next to each other:

Without the hyphens or quotes the search engine could return results containing ANY of the words instead of ALL of the words.

Quotes and hyphens also tell the search engine to keep the words in the order you entered them.

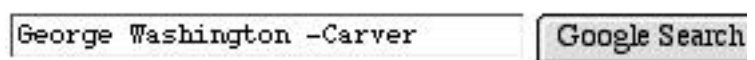


Be aware that some search engines use OR as a default. If you put two or three words in, your results may be high in number but low in relevance because the page only needed one of your search terms to qualify as a hit.

#### Use a plus sign (+) in front words that must appear



#### Use a plus sign (-) in front of words that you do NOT want.



## Using Boolean Operators

Some search engines can be searched using Boolean operators which include **AND**, **AND NOT**, **OR** and parentheses (check the help or advanced search tips page before trying these).

In general, Boolean operators must appear in **ALL CAPS** and with a space on each side in order to work.

### The **AND** operator

swimming AND backstroke

Documents found must contain **both** the words joined by the “AND operator.”  
93,000 results

Google Search

### The **OR** operator

swimming OR backstroke

Documents found must contain **either one** of the words joined by the “OR” operator.  
346,000 results

Google Search

### The **NOT** operator

swimming NOT backstroke

Documents found cannot contain the word that follows the term “NOT.”  
35,500 results”

Google Search

### Parentheses ( )

Parentheses are used to group portions of Boolean queries together for more complicated queries. For example, to find documents that contain the word “Baseball” and either the word “Yankees” or the word “METS”

baseball AND (Yankees OR METS)

Google Search

All search engines are not the same, and they do not all understand the search tips mentioned above. Reading the search tips or help page provided by the search engine will help you search that particular search site better. If a search you do does not bring the results you want, try a different one.

You can also use the Advanced Search Option provided by many of the Search Engines.