

SEARCH TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

General Search Engines

Google	https://www.google.co.nz
Bing	https://www.bing.com
Gigablast	www.gigablast.com/
Yahoo	https://nz.yahoo.com
Ask.com	www.ask.com
DuckDuckGo	https://duckduckgo.com/

Vertical or Specific Search Engines

Legal – Google Scholar	scholar.google.co.nz
Maps – Google Maps	https://maps.google.co.nz
Bing Maps	https://www.bing.com/maps/

Genealogy Search Engines

Mocavo	https://www.mocavo.com
GenealogyInTime	http://www.genealogyintime.com/tools/genealogy-search-engine.html

Metasearch

Dogpile	http://www.dogpile.com/
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Common Boolean Search Operators (must be capitalized)

- AND - narrows a search by combining terms; it will retrieve documents that use both the search terms you specify
- OR - broadens a search to include results that contain either of the words you type
- You can use the OR operator to string together several name variations in one query e.g. "joseph hill" OR "hill joseph"
- NOT - will narrow a search by excluding certain search terms.
- NOT (-) Negative Operator
- e.g. fox~genealogy NOT animal

Date Range ... e.g. "joseph hill"~genealogy 1850...1912

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Wildcards (*)

The (*) or wildcard is used when you are uncertain about the spelling of a name or place. Sm*th* or John * Smith

Things to ignore

1. Case Sensitivity - SMITH Genealogy will generate the same number of hits as Smith Genealogy However if you add the Boolean words in between they must be in capitals
2. Standard punctuation (,) (:) (;) etc. The exception is if 2 names are joined together e.g. Hill-Hanley
3. Small joining words e.g. "a" "and" "the" etc.

Google Advanced Search

Click the cog wheel and click advanced search

More options : all these words, this exact phrase, any of these words, none of these words, numbers ranging from

Narrow results by: language, region, last update (e.g. past week), terms appearing (title of page), any format, usage.

Tilde (~)

Top left hand side under esc

With a general search engine you want only genealogy results. Use the Tilde symbol to narrow your results

e.g. Rebecca Hanley~genealogy OR family history

Google Search by Family Tree

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/google/searcher.html>

Set up a selected search and click "search"

Commercial sites use their own search engines. Check the "Help"

? For single character

* For more than 1 character