

Ritter Library Guide To Search Engine Syntax

	Levels of searching	<u>Implied Boolean</u>	<u>Simple Boolean</u>	<u>Proximity Searching</u>	Phrase searching	<u>Field searching</u>
<u>Alta Vista</u>	simple advanced	yes +/- (place immediately in front of term)	AND/OR/ AND NOT adv. mode only	NEAR - adv. mode only	"" or use ; between words (no space)	title:, anchor:, text:, applet:, object:, link:, image:, url:, host:, domain:
<u>Excite</u>	simple power (form-based and limited)	yes +/- (in simple mode)(place immediately in front of term)	AND/OR/ AND NOT (in simple mode; must be uppercase)	no	""	no
<u>HotBot</u>	1 level (Supersearch just an extension of standard search)	yes: select from "all the words", "any of the words"; (or just use +/- immediately in front of terms)	AND/OR/ NOT MUST select "the Boolean expression"	no	"" or select search the phrase	Includes: URL:, domain:, date:, title:, feature: (eg media type), depth:, script language:
<u>Go</u>	1 level	yes +/- (place immediately in front of term)	no	no	"" or use hyphen between words	title:, url:, link:, site:

Lycos or Lycos Pro	Lycos (basic) Lycos Pro (advanced)	yes +/- (place immediately in front of term) can also use any/all (Lycos Pro)	AND/OR/ NOT - MUST select "the Boolean expression" (Lycos Pro)	ADJ, NEAR, NEAR/X, FAR, BEFORE. Includes other advanced options. (Lycos Pro)	""	picture, sound
WebCrawler	1 level	no (default OR)	AND/OR/ NOT	ADJ/NEAR (NEAR - 1 word apart; also NEAR/X)	""	no

	Special features	Wildcards/ Truncation	Capitalisation recognition	Use of metatags	Availability of help
Alta Vista	Allows wildcards within a word; can influence relevancy ranking in adv. search mode; includes a "refine" option offering terms to narrow/broaden search results (not available at Australian site); offers natural language searching; can limit by language and date	* (e.g. colo*r*) * will search for 0-5 characters	yes	yes - description, keywords	
Excite	offers similar terms to "focus" search (in simple mode); provides automatic synonym searching; offers a "more like this" option in results; can sort by site	no	no	no	okay Search tips
HotBot	can limit by date and continent	no	only for mixed upper- and lower-case words (eg NeXT)	yes - description, keywords	

<u>Go</u>	can use a pipe to narrow a search (eg dogs dalmations); automatically searches previous results to narrow search result	automatic; also finds word variations automatically (eg mice/mouse)	yes	yes - description, keywords	
<u>Lycos</u> or <u>Lycos Pro</u>	Lycos Pro offers natural language searching (select to search "the natural language query"; can sort results. Offers all the basic search options of Lycos as well as advanced search options.	no	no	not really (indexes metadata but doesn't treat it differently to other text)	reasonable <u>Lycos Pro help</u>
<u>WebCrawler</u>	Offers a shortcuts option which while giving you a list of results also lists relevant sites from its directory.	no	no	yes - description, keywords	good <u>Help</u>