Search Operators and Tips

"quotes"

search phrases
["we are the world"]

works with most search engines

- (minus)

eliminate irrelevant results.
[mullet -hairstyle]

works with most search engines

site:

search within specific websites
[site:nationalgeographic.com]

search specific domain types (including countries)
[site:edu.au] or **[site:gov]**

works with most search engines (blekko uses [/site]

OR

expand search options and include more than one way of saying an idea.
[jazz OR blues]

works with most search engines

define:

quick definition
[define:poignant]

works with most search engines

filetype:

search specific types of files
[filetype:mov]

works with most search engines

List of **domain types** including countries:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains

Sample **filetypes**: mov, jpg, pdf, doc, xls, etc.

whois - search with this word to find out **who owns** a website

Google's Power Searching Skills: http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/course/aps/skills
Google's Quick Reference Guide:
http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/assets/misc/AdvancedPowerSearchingQuickReference.pdf

Other great search engines:
Blekko.com   Duckduckgo.com   Twurdy.com

Research Strategies:

★Use the RIGHT WORDS
- look at your search engine results page (SERP) and other details for suggestions
- use a dictionary, or the [define:] operator to find the definition of suggested words
- consider the vocabulary of the time, region, academic level, etc.
- Consider context terms (extra words that help explain what you want) e.g. tables, figures, clipart, infographic, etc.

★Look in the right PLACE
- If you know of a great site for the info you need, go there. e.g. youtube, wikipedia, IMDB.com
- Consider the options of different media/information (images, video, books, maps, scholar, news, etc.)

★Use the EXTRA OPTIONS (dropdown boxes) to further filter/refine your searches!