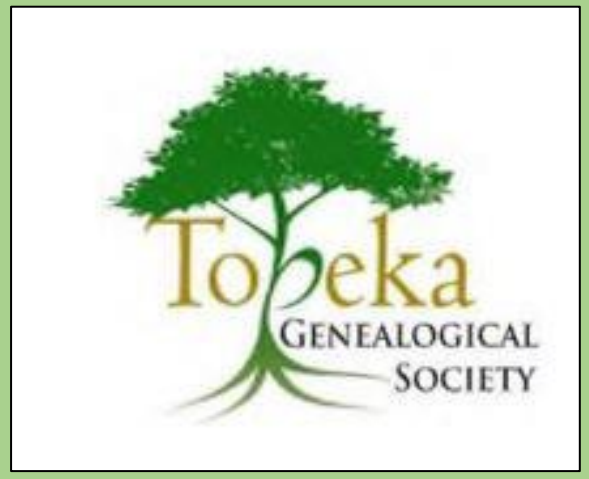
GOOGLE STRATEGIES FOR GENEALOGISTS



TGS BRICK WALL SIG

June 21, 2022

Cindy Cruz

GOALS

- Search Efficiently
- Refine Search Terms
- Eliminate Irrelevant Results
- Set Up Notifications
- Add Extras for Specific Tasks

SEARCH EFFICIENTLY

- Type in lower case
- Omit punctuation
- Omit unnecessary words
- Prioritize words by importance/relevance
- Use OR to search for multiple words or phrases
- Use different genealogical key words in separate searches
- https://www.google.com/advanced_search

https://www.google.com/advanced_search

Find pages with...

		To do this in the search box
all these words:		Type the important words: `tricolor rat terrier`
this exact word or phrase:		Put exact words in quotes: `"rat terrier"`
any of these words:		Type `OR` between all the words you want: `miniature OR standard`
none of these words:		Put a minus sign just before words you don't want: `-rodent, -"Jack Russell"`
numbers ranging from:	to	Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure: `10..35 lb, $300..$500, 2010..2011`

Then narrow your results by...

language:	any language	Find pages in the language you select.
region:	any region	Find pages published in a particular region.
last update:	anytime	Find pages updated within the time you specify.
site or domain:		Search one site (like `wikipedia.org`) or limit your results to a domain like `.edu`, `.org` or `.gov`
terms appearing:	anywhere in the page	Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for.
SafeSearch:	Show explicit results	Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content.
file type:	any format	Find pages in the format you prefer.
usage rights:	not filtered by license	Find pages you are free to use yourself.

Advanced Search

- **Use “ctrl + f” to search webpages rather than scrolling**
- **Search all pages of a website in a single search with site: followed by the website (henry Norwood site:argenweb.net)**
- **Repeat searches with variations of your key words**
- **Try other search engines with the same key words**
- **Search within one website by adding @ and the web address (gerald norwood 1940 census @ancestry.com)**

REFINE RESULTS

- Start with few words and add key words as needed
- Use the asterisk “*” as a wild card to replace letters or words
- Narrow a time frame with 2 dots between dates or make the date specific with 2 dots before the date
- Find key words near each other with AROUND(#) between key words. Example “norwood Israel” AROUND(10) Lovica

GOOGLE BOOKS

- https://books.google.com
- Find books, journals & magazines
- Contains millions of volumes!
- Many are in public domain and downloadable
- Some just show a preview of the book
- Past issues of Ancestry Magazine are available
- Books can be saved in a personal online library

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

- https://scholar.google.com
- Similar to Google Books, but results are limited to scholarly books, journals and articles
- Great for social history, descriptions of locations, occupations, etc.

GOOGLE IMAGES

- https://www.google.com/imghp
- Photos of ancestors & historical locations
- Find same or similar images with reverse photo lookup
- Click on the camera icon and upload a photo or copy and paste a photo URL to find matches
- (I didn’t have much luck with this!)

GOOGLE TRANSLATE

- https://translate.google.com
- Select language
- Select text, documents, or websites
- Works well to translate webpages
- Does not recognize colloquialism or slang words
- Gives a very literal (sometimes odd or weird) translation of newspaper articles, etc.
- Can create a general idea of entered text

ELIMINATE UNWANTED RESULTS

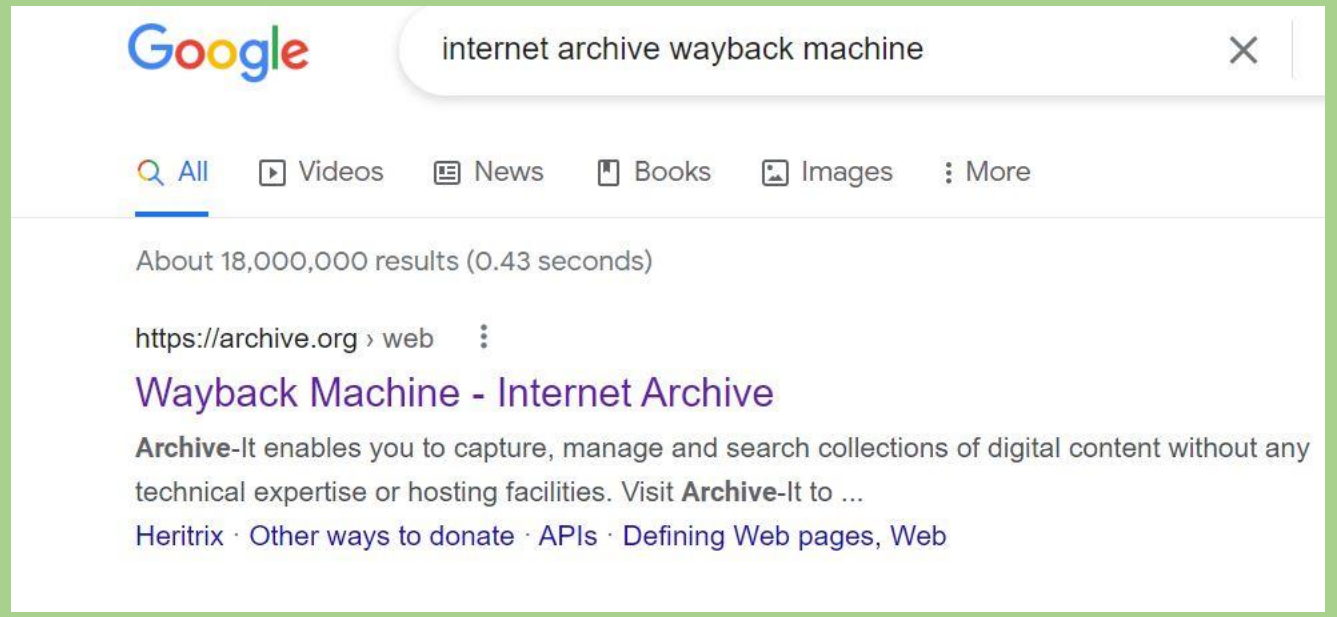
- Use quotation marks for an exact key word search
- Use a minus sign “-” to exclude key words (date, place, famous person, etc.)
- Find a specific file type by adding filetype:pdf or filetype:jpeg, etc.with key words

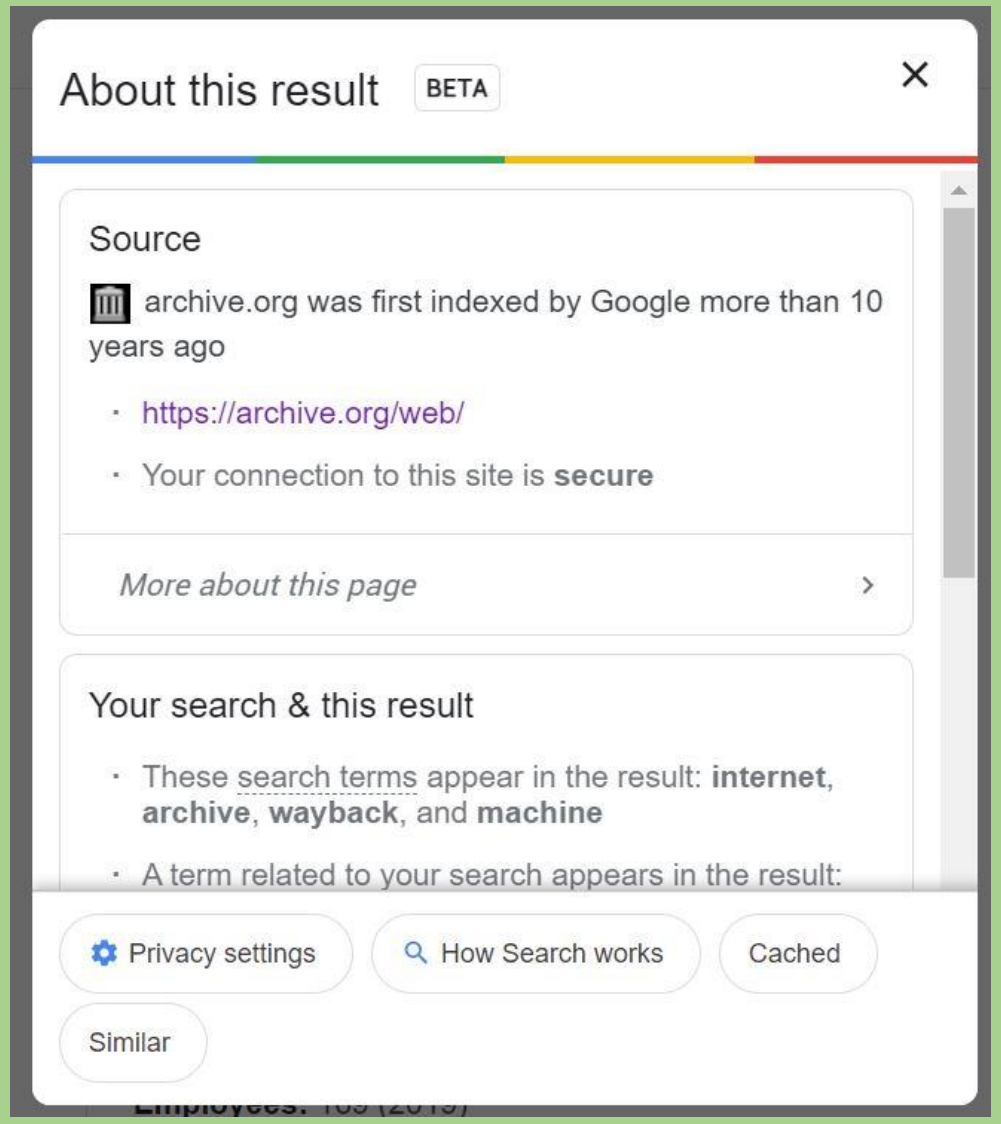
GOOGLE ALERTS

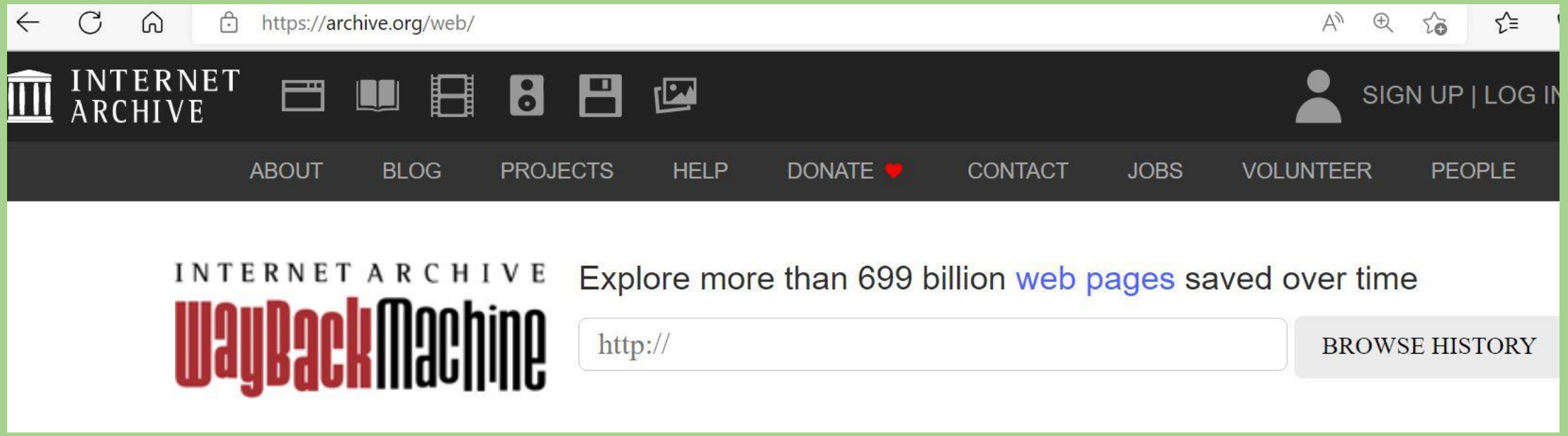
- Requires a free Google account
- https://www.google.com/alerts
- Will constantly search the internet for your key word search
- Will send email notifications to an email address in specified intervals until turned off
- Set up with key words, email address and preferred frequency of email notifications

EXTRAS

- Possibly retrieve 404 – Page Not Found error by copying URL into Internet Archive Wayback Machine
- https://archive.org/web
- Or arrow back and find the drop-down arrow on the search result to view “Cache”


Google
internet archive wayback machine
All
Videos
News
Books
Images
More
About 18,000,000 results (0.43 seconds)
https://archive.org › web
Wayback Machine - Internet Archive
Archive-It enables you to capture, manage and search collections of digital content without any technical expertise or hosting facilities. Visit Archive-It to ...
Heritrix · Other ways to donate · APIs · Defining Web pages, Web


About this result
BETA
Source
archive.org was first indexed by Google more than 10 years ago
https://archive.org/web/
Your connection to this site is secure
More about this page
Your search & this result
These search terms appear in the result: internet, archive, wayback, and machine
A term related to your search appears in the result:
Privacy settings
How Search works
Cached
Similar


https://archive.org/web/
INTERNET ARCHIVE
SIGN UP | LOG IN
ABOUT
BLOG
PROJECTS
HELP
DONATE
CONTACT
JOBS
VOLUNTEER
PEOPLE
INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBackMachine
Explore more than 699 billion web pages saved over time
http://
BROWSE HISTORY

RELATED WEBSITES

- Find websites similar to successful searches
- Type related: before the website name (Example related:ancestry.com with key word)

TRY STEVE MORSE'S ONE-STEP WEBPAGE

- https://stevemorse.org
- Click on links to several types of databases for one-step access