



HEALTH INFONET of ALABAMA

Finding Health Information on the Internet – Tips and Tricks

- Start with a reliable, general health “gateway” site, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MedlinePlus (<http://www.medlineplus.gov>)
- Use a general search engine, such as Google, only after you’ve tried reliable sources you’re familiar with.
- **Google** Tips:
 - Use Advanced Search (http://www.google.com/advanced_search) – even if you’re a “newbie” searcher!

Google

Advanced Search

Find pages with...

all these words:

this exact word or phrase:

any of these words:

none of these words:

numbers ranging from:

to

To do this in the search box

Type the important words: tricolor rat terrier

Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier"

Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard

Put a minus sign just before words you don't want:
-rodent, -"Jack Russell"

Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure:
10...35 lb, \$300...\$500, 2010...2011

- Use quotation marks to force phrase searching, or use “exact word or phrase” field in Google Advanced. (Example: “heart attack”)
- Use ~ for synonyms. (Example: ~teen)
- Use specific domains. (Example: site.gov)
- Use refining phrases. (Example: “for patients”)

Don’t forget to critically evaluate the results! **Remember your ABC’s!** Authority, Bias, Currency!

For help, call your local librarian or Health InfoNet of Alabama – 855-INFONET!