

How to Search

This is not a website document, but a "How To" document. I recently realized that some people do not know how to make searches work the best for them, so this document is to help with those issues. I have been using the Internet since about 1990 and even I have learned some new things about searching in the last few months.

Google and Other Search Engines

You may enter one or more search terms and you do not need to worry about capitalization. How you enter the term determines what results you get. Remember, you can limit the search to just images on Google by selecting the **Images** link next to the **Search** term box

Example: franks family

This search will return any web page containing the two terms.

Example: "franks family"

This search using the quote marks will return any web page in which the two terms are next to each other.

Example: krogslund -autodele

This search will return any web page that has krogslund ***but NOT*** autodele. You may have use several negative (-) search terms. Remember that the minus sign ***must not*** have a space between it and the term you wish to not be present.

Within a Web Page

Exact

Exact searches will return the results on the search term or name only if the match is exact. One letter off and it will not work. If you have been using Exact searching, you may want to try other options if they are available. These could be Begins with, Sounds Like, or Wild Card.

Begins With

A Begins with search means that you enter the first part of the name or search term (e. g. Rasmus for Rasmussen) and it will find all terms or names that begin with those letters

Sounds Like

Sounds Like searches use something like the Soundex system used for the U. S. Censuses from 1880 - 1930 which is based upon consonants in the name and not the vowels.

Wild Card

Many sites permit the use of "wild card" searching. A "wild card" search character may represent one or several characters. The instructions on the site may tell you about using wild card characters on its site or it may not. You can always try them if using the regular search does not yield results. Common wild card characters are:

The Asterisk (*) is found above the 8 on the keyboard. Use it to search for zero or more characters before or after the search term. Using a * before and after a search term will find that term anywhere in the field.

Example: Jef*

This search returns Jeff, Jeffrey, Jefferson, etc.

Example: Ste*en

This search returns Steven, Stephen, etc.

Example: *alton

This search returns Dalton, Walton, etc.

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Use the Underscore (_) to replace a single character with a wildcard character. You may use multiples in a search.

Examples: J_n

This search returns Jan, Jen, Jon, etc.

Example: _an

This search returns Dan, Ian, Jan etc. Je_ returns Jeb, Jed, Jen, etc.

%

The Danish Demographic Database web page (<http://www.ddd.dda.dk>) Uses the % instead of the * for the multi-letter wild card.search character. For this reason, especially with foreign databases, the wild card characters may not be those that are common amongst U. S. web pages.