

Beyond Google & Yahoo: Search Engine Alternatives

Beyond the popular search engines there are alternative ways to approach searching the internet.

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[HTTP://ALTERNATESEARCH.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://ALTERNATESEARCH.BLOGSPOT.COM/)

[Google and Yahoo http://www.langreiter.com/exec/yahoo-vs-google.html?q=online+learning](http://www.langreiter.com/exec/yahoo-vs-google.html?q=online+learning)

I am a huge fan of Google and Yahoo! I began using Google back in 1998 when the address was in the stanford.edu domain . I began using Yahoo! back before it truly was powered by a search engine - it was a limited index in those early days. I continue to use both Yahoo! and Google on a regular basis. As you see in the link to the title of this posting, an amazing 75% of all searches are conducted through these tools. Their results are not always the same - click on the title to run a quick comparison of responses for keywords of your choice.

Google and Yahoo! refer many hundreds of readers to my blogs each day. These are tremendous tools that I would not want to do without. But, sometimes, they are not quite the best tool for the task at hand.

This blog is to share some of the other tools that I use to conduct a variety of searches. You may find some of these tools useful to you!

[Search Engine Innovations](http://www.folden.info/searchengineinnovations.shtml)

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Folden maintains a massive site with links to a wide range of search engines. Examine the links at the site (click on the title "Search Engine Innovation"). There are links in the right column of the Folden site that identify hundreds of search engines of many varieties.

Alternative Search Engines <http://altsearchengines.com/>

There are many, many more alternative search engines than you may think. Each month, Alt Search Engines, publishes its list of the top 100 alternative engines. Many of these are very specialized. They are in a variety of languages. They include a wide array of technologies.

I have chosen the ones that are representative of the range of alternatives available and seem most useful to a broad spectrum of users (including me) and linked them below with brief descriptions.

KartOO <http://kartoo.com/>

One of the pioneers in visual search engines, KartOO is a metasearch engine that provides a graphical display of linkages and clusters. The larger the image on the graphical flash display, the more relevant KartOO believes it is to your search. KartOO also performs natural language searches if you include a question mark at the end of your inquiry. It allows for refinement of searches. Also provides video, image and Wikipedia searches.

TouchGraph Google Browser

<http://www.touchgraph.com/TGGoogleBrowser.html>

TouchGraph provides a java-enhanced graphing display of linkages among returns from Google. Much like KartOO, it's a great way to view the inter-relationships among web pages. There is an excellent filter entry form to further refine your searches.

This search tool is one of the most visually interesting among all of the search tools. Check out the animations as linkages are built!

The Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/index.php>

Arguably the most incredible search engine online is the Internet Archive - it allows time travel! This incredible database has crawled the Web since 1996. It holds more than 85 billion web pages. You can recover Web pages from a decade ago - news items - track the development of a Web site over years. You can

restore broken links to material that has been removed from the Web. There are special sections for moving images, text, audio, software and education. And, there are special collections for historic events. This is an awesome resource.

PageBull <http://www.pagebull.com/>

Page Bull displays its returns via mini-windows of screenshots of the actual pages - a dozen at a time. This avoids the frustration of trying to bring up dead links, and it enables the searcher to pick out the actual page without having to cruise back and forth between the search results page and the display of the results, one-by-one.

Exalead <http://www.exalead.com/search>

Exalead, like Page Bull, displays results with screen shots of the pages. This is a most useful display mode - saving much time. The screen shots are much smaller in Exalead, so I prefer Page Bull in this respect. And, Exalead includes sponsored links.

Grokker <http://grokker.com/>

Grokker has some nifty features that make it useful to many researchers. It is a metasearch engine that provides an outline view as well as a map view. You can zoom in and zoom out of the graphical displays. You can prioritize your returns by date. It is easy to keep a "working list" and then email those research results to yourself or another.

Search the Tail <http://www.searchthetail.com/>

The term "a long tail" has become a popular one on the web. There are many nuances of the term, but in this case it refers to the long list of responses to a search. Long Tail helps you fine those more obscure references to something you are searching for - the ones that are less obvious and for which there may be only a handful of references. In *Search the Tail* you get a long list of suggested refinement tags to help you get to the part of the tail you are looking for. You can access the list of refinements by "most popular" or alphabetic.

Hakia <http://www.hakia.com/>

The search for meaning... This often eludes us in both real and virtual life! The goal of Hakia is to search for meaning in the terms or question that is posed in the search. In many cases kind of search can get right down to what you are looking for. You skip all of the commercial products, advertisements, and promotions and find returns with useful quotes and citations!

Quintura <http://www.quintura.com/>

Combining many features of other alternative search engines, Quintura is powered by Yahoo! It provides a cloud that one can mouse roll-over to view groups of returns. There is a nice "share" utility to email the cloud to others.

RSS Micro <http://www.rssmicro.com/>

RSS Micro searches RSS feeds. As of this posting, it searches more current news sources than Google, with some 10,000 news feeds and more than 16 million different feeds overall.

Scitopia <http://www.scitopia.org/scitopia/>

The federated vertical search portal scitopia.org was created through the imagination and collaboration of 15 leading science and technology societies. Searching for a better way to help researchers quickly get to the quality content they need, these society publishers developed a gateway to the research most cited in scholarly work and patents. Scitopia.org searches the entire electronic libraries of the leading voices in major science and technology disciplines and provides relevant results, without the noise of other Internet search engines. More than three million documents, including peer-reviewed journal content and technical conference papers, spanning 150 years of science and technology can be searched through the site.

Mooter <http://mooter.com/>

Mooter has been around for a while. It provides clusters of results. Though not as visually exciting as some, these graphical clusters work well. Built into the search is a "refine" mode in which you can continuously add modifiers to refine your search.

Musiccovery <http://musiccovery.com/>

Search engine for streamed online music. Choose music by genre and mood.

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