



## A Super Searcher Shares 30 Search Tips

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### 1.

- **AltSearchEngines**
  - Blog of alternative and niche search engines
  - Click the "Top 100" tab
  - Subscribe to RSS feed
  - Search using  
`site:altsearchengines.com`
  - AltSearchEngines.com

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### 2.

- **Keotag**
  - Search across Web 2.0 sites
    - Technorati, Deli.cio.us, Twitter, Google Blog Search and 14 more!
  - Not aggregated
  - Quick way to skim the buzz
  - Keotag.com

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### 3.

- **MSN's product reviews**
  - Search for a specific brand
  - Compiles reviews *from other sources*
  - Great for tracking buzz
- [search.live.com](http://search.live.com)

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### 4.

- **Google's new 'n' improved timelines**
  - Creates a readable page
  - Easy to scan, identify trends
- [news.google.com/archivesearch](http://news.google.com/archivesearch)

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### 5.

- **Watch for blended search results**
  - Lower precision results, but more long-tail content, esp. for obscure topics

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### 6.

#### ○ SearchCrystal

- Meta-search engine on steroids
- Compare search queries!
- Shows overlap between terms
- searchcrystal.com

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### 7.

#### ○ Carrot2

- Clustering on demand
- with a choice of sorting algorithms
- and a choice of search engines
- Default is a meta-search engine
- Can select other options
- carrot2.org

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### 8.

#### ○ Loki toolbar

- Find location-dependent content
- Based on IP address *or nearby wi-fi signals*
- Tells you where you are now, locates on map
- Search locally
- Find a local ATM, Starbucks, etc., without knowing your address
- Loki.com

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### 9.

- **CustomizeGoogle.com**
  - Firefox fix for Google
- **Nice customization**
  - removes ads
  - *infinite scroll of results*
  - numbers the results
  - lets you repeat search in other search engines
  - displays page icons in results
  - add links to archive.org, etc.

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### 10.

- **Google's Experimental Search**
- **New way to see results**
- **Add view:timeline or view:info to the search query**
- **See results**
  - in a timeline
  - with dates highlighted
  - with images featured(!)
  - highlighted on a map

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### 11.

- **SearchMash**
  - Unbranded Google site
  - Cool interface
  - Results sorted by web page, images, blogs, videos, Wikipedia
  - Infinite scroll
- **Searchmash.com**

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### 12.

- Google date-limiting
- Advanced Search screen
  - Pull down menu: last 24 hours, last week
- Can also roll your own
  - add `&as_qdr=d $n$`  to the SERP URL, where  $n$  is the number of days

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### 13.

- DoubleTrust.net
- Compare Google and Yahoo search results
- Can "prefer" results from one or the other

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### 14.

- I'd *prefer* this...
- Search.live.com
- Add `prefer:word` to query
  - Ranks these search results higher

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### 15.

- **MSN's misspelling-suggestion engine**
  - [adlab.msn.com/keymut/](http://adlab.msn.com/keymut/)

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### 16.

- **Ask's maps**
  - Both driving and walking directions
  - Takes local topography into account
  - [maps.ask.com](http://maps.ask.com)

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### 17.

- **Exalead.com**
- **Use Exalead's NEAR/n operator**
  - (solar OR sun) NEAR/3 power

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### 18.

- Exalead supports true wild-card internal truncation
  - /colou?r/
    - ? means the preceding character or no character
  - /globali.ation/
    - . means exactly one character
  - /globali(z|s|)ation/
  - /paral+el+/
    - + means 1 or more of the preceding character

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### 19.

- Use search engines' quick-answer feature
  - Ask.com's Smart Answers
  - Google's OneBox
  - Yahoo's Shortcuts
  - MSN's Instant Answers

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### 20.

- Gigablast
  - Limit to *multiple* sites
  - Gigabits clustering
  - Extremely cool complex search and ranking tools (see Help file for syntax)
- gigablast.com

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### 21.

- **SnapSearch**
  - Easy to navigate
  - Visual search results
  - Can interact with site within Snap
  - Based on Gigablast
- [snap.com](http://snap.com)

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### 22.

- **PageBull**
  - Metasearch tool
  - Entirely visual
  - Good for right-brained searchers
- [Pagebull.com](http://Pagebull.com)

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### 23.

- **Factbites.com**
- Search results deliver small fact-bites
- Max 30 results
- Good for finding in-depth sites quickly

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- **TextRunner**
  - "Information mining"
  - Looks for *assertions*
  - [www.cs.washington.edu/research/textrunner](http://www.cs.washington.edu/research/textrunner)

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25.

- **NationMaster.com**
  - Source for national stats
  - Cool tool for presenting graphical info
  - Data from WHO, World Bank, CIA World Factbook, World Resources Institute, UNESCO, OECD, etc.

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- **TouchGraph**
  - Finds relationships among URLs
    - Uses Google's "Similar pages" function
  - Finds related books in Amazon
    - Uses subject terms

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### 27.

- Check out podcast lectures from
  - Yale
  - Princeton
  - UC Berkeley
  - Stanford
  - Johns Hopkins

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### 28.

- Kosmix.com
  - Vertical search engine on steroids
- Excellent clustering
  - Health, Travel, Autos

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### 29.

- LOUIS – Library Of Unified Information Sources
- Searchable documents from
  - Congressional Record, reports, hearings
  - Federal Register
  - Presidential Documents
  - GAO Reports
  - Bills & Resolutions
- louisdb.org

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### 30.

- Watch [public.resource.org](http://public.resource.org) for the full text of all US Supreme Court cases
  - Incomplete now
  - No finding / navigation tools
  - [bulk.resource.org/courts.gov/c/US/](http://bulk.resource.org/courts.gov/c/US/)

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Mary Ellen offers two free email bulletins:  
"Bates InfoTip" and  
"Info-Entrepreneur Tip of the Month"

If you would like to subscribe to either,  
just ask ([mbates@BatesInfo.com](mailto:mbates@BatesInfo.com))

Also, check out her blog at  
[Librarian Of Fortune.com](http://LibrarianOfFortune.com)

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