



Online Scavenger Hunt

Railroad Disasters Problem

Topics

- Search using phrases
- Restrict searches to a specific website
- Restrict searches to a specific file type
- Exclude results from a search
- Search for images
- Search for newspaper articles
- Locate scholarly articles

Background Information

In this project, students will explore information related to railroad disasters.

Instructions

IMPORTANT: Complete the steps below in the order they are given. Completing the steps out of order may complicate the assignment or result in an incorrect result.

1. Download and extract the provided Data Files ZIP file. It contains the following file for use in this assignment:
 - a. **railroad_pposh_rdp.docx** - Microsoft Word document to record your results.
2. Open the **railroad_pposh_rdp.docx** document in Microsoft Word. Record your answers in the appropriate place in the provided document. Do not create a new file.

IMPORTANT: You must use Microsoft Word on Windows or Mac. Do not use the Word web app, Google Docs, or another application to do your work.

Search using phrases

3. When you are looking for a specific phrase, such as a proper name, surrounding it with double quotation marks (e.g., "phrase") tells search engines you wish to search for a specific phrase. It generally also requires that the words inside the quotes must appear in the search results.

For example, to know which U.S. president's assassination led to the creation of the Gun Control Act of 1968, you could search using `US president assassination "Gun Control Act of 1968"`.

- a. Using quotes to surround phrases in your search terms, search for the train crash which led to creation of the first comprehensive federal rules for passenger car design in the United States.



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- b. Record the search terms you used in Step 3a in the Word document. Also, list the name of the crash, railroads involved, and the date of the crash.

Restrict searches to a specific website

4. When searching, it can be sometimes be helpful to only view results from a specific website or group of websites. The `site` parameter in most search engines allows you to specify the domain name (e.g., `wvu.edu`) for restricting search results.
 - a. Using the `site` parameter, locate the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) accident report of the train collision you found in Step 3a. Restrict your search to information on the National Transportation Safety Board website at `ntsb.gov`.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 4a in the Word document. Also, list total number of fatalities and the total estimated replacement costs related to the accident.

Restrict searches to a specific file type

5. If you are looking for a particular type of data, the `filetype` parameter can be used to specify which types of files can be shown in the results. For example, you can search only for PDF files by using the `filetype:pdf` parameter on the Google and Bing search engines.
 - a. Locate the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) 2014 annual report to Congress by searching only for PDF files.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 5a in the Word document. Also, list the total numbers of railroad recommendations issued and railroad recommendations implemented as mentioned in the report.

Exclude results from a search

6. When searching, you might want to exclude a specific website or a keyword. Placing a minus sign (-) before a phrase or parameter will exclude matching pages from your results. For example, if you want to omit pages from The Onion in your results, you could add `-site:theonion.com` to your search.
 - a. Search for railroad accidents in February 1951 excluding results from `wikipedia.org`. Also find the name of the train, name of city where the crash happened, and number of fatalities in the crash.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 6a in the Word document. Also, list the name of the train, name of city where the crash happened, and number of fatalities in the accident.



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Search for images

7. The Internet can be a great source of images to illustrate documents, reports, and presentations. When using images from the Internet, be careful to check on their copyright and licensing restrictions to be sure they are legal for use.
 - a. Using an image search engine, find a photograph related to the train collision you found in Step 3a. Search only for images which are labeled for re-use of any kind or are in the public domain.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 7a in the Word document. Insert the picture you found into the document as well. Also, list the website address URL where you found the picture.

Search for newspaper articles

8. [WVU Libraries](#) has subscriptions for many [research databases](#) including Nexis Uni, a large commercial database containing historical newspaper articles from around the world.
 - a. Using Nexis Uni, locate the author(s) and newspaper name of a February 21, 1996, article about possibility of the Federal Railroad Administration changing rules as a result of the train collision you found in Step 3a.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 8a in the Word document. Also, list the article's authors and the name of the newspaper which printed the article.

Locate scholarly articles

9. [Google Scholar](#) provides a simple way to search for scholarly articles across different disciplines and sources such as theses, books, abstracts, and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.
 - a. Using Google Scholar, search for the title and authors of an article on the prevention of grade crossing crashes which was published in the journal *Accident Analysis & Prevention* in 2000.
 - b. Record the search terms you used in Step 9a in the Word document. Also, list the article's title and authors.



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Grading Rubric

This assignment is worth 8 points. It will be graded by your instructor using this rubric:

Standard	Meets Requirements (8 points)	Does Not Meet Requirements (0 points)
Student made reasonable effort in correctly completing assignment.	Assignment is at least 70% complete and correct, or student contacted instructor for help on incorrect or incomplete items.	Assignment is less than 70% complete and correct, and student did not contact instructor for assistance on incorrect or incomplete items.

This rubric will be used for peer evaluation of this assignment:

Standard	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Assignment is correct and complete.	Assignment is at least 90% complete and correct.	Assignment is 70%-89% complete and correct.	Assignment is less than 70% complete and correct.