

AltaVista	URLs	
	Main site	<i>http://www.altavista.com/ http://www.av.com/</i>
	AltaVista Canada	<i>http://www.altavista.ca/</i>
	AltaVista UK	<i>http://www.altavista.co.uk/</i>
	AltaVista France	<i>http://www.altavista.fr/</i>
	AltaVista Germany	<i>http://www.altavista.de/</i>
	AltaVista Netherlands	<i>http://www.altavista.nl/</i>
AltaVista Sweden	<i>http://www.altavista.se/</i>	
Text versions	<i>http://www.altavista.com/cgi-bin/query?text http://www.altavista.co.uk/query_text.jsp</i>	
Translation Service	<i>http://babelfish.altavista.com/</i>	

Coverage

- ◆ 250 million Web pages
- ◆ World-wide
- ◆ Usenet provided by Remarq (availability varies depending on country/regional version used)

Linked Services

- ◆ Directory and categories provided by Open Directory and LookSmart
- ◆ Separate media finder for images, video and audio files
- ◆ Ask Jeeves - “answers” from Ask Jeeves appear at the top or bottom of your results list
- ◆ Real Names
- ◆ Telephone and e-mail directories
- ◆ News, share prices, weather forecasts

General Notes

- ◆ Default search is for AltaVista to treat your search terms as a phrase or phrases and try and find a match, then to search for any of the words in your search strategy
- ◆ Allocates a set amount of time to each search, so if it is busy it may not search its entire database
- ◆ The country versions default to searching for local pages only
- ◆ Do not mix Boolean search operators (Advanced Search) and + or - symbols (default simple search)
- ◆ Translation option uses machine translation so use it as a rough guide only

Search Options

Case sensitive?	Yes
Wildcard/Truncation	* (asterisk) Right hand and internal. You must specify at least three letters in front of the *. Matches up to 5 letters and only lower case letters.
Phrases	“” e.g. “building society” in both simple and advanced searches

SUMMARY: ALTAVISTA

Symbols	<p><u>Use on the default search page only</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Precede words that must be present with a + sign e.g. +pharmaceutical - Exclude pages that contain a certain word by preceding the word with a minus sign e.g. -monty <p>Note: Words or numbers linked with hyphens, and with no spaces between the hyphen and words, are treated as phrases.</p> <p><u>Use in Advanced Search only</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> & for Boolean AND for Boolean OR ! for Boolean AND NOT ~ for Boolean NEAR (within 10 words of each other)
Boolean search	<p>Must use separate screen under “Advanced Web Search link”</p> <p>AND(& OR(AND NOT (!) NEAR (~)(within 10 words and in either order)</p> <p>For phrases just type in the words next to one another Parentheses for complex search strategies</p>
Specify language	Restrict search to pages in one of 25 languages (pull down menu)
Limit by country	Use, for example, domain:de or url:de
Fielded search:	<p>url: To search for a term in the URL e.g. url:waitrose</p> <p>domain: To search for term at the end of the domain name e.g. domain:uk</p> <p>host: To find all the pages on the specified site e.g. host:rba.co.uk</p> <p>title: To search for words in the title of the page e.g. title:chocolate</p> <p>image: To search for an image file name containing the specified word</p> <p>link: Finds pages with a link to a page with the specified URL e.g.link:www.rba.co.uk</p> <p>anchor: Finds pages that contain the specified word or phrase in the text of a hyperlink</p> <p>applet: Finds pages that contain a specified Java applet</p> <p>text: Finds term in the text of a page not including an image tag, link, or URL</p>
Limit by date	<p>Advanced Search page:</p> <p>Search for a range of dates, or from a date or up to a date</p> <p>Date in dd/mmm/yy format e.g. 01 Oct 97</p>
Refine search	No longer available

Results and Display Options

Default display	The default search screen sorts results by relevance The Advanced Web Search lists results in random order Only first 200 pages in your results can be viewed Position in list of results - 1,2,3, etc No actual relevance figure given Title, URL, first sentence or two lines, date last modified, page size, language
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Other Options

Translation Service

English to French	French to English
English to German	German to English
English to Italian	Italian to English
English to Portuguese	Portuguese to English
English to Spanish	Spanish to English

Customisation

No longer available