

# User Manual: PDF Keyword Searcher

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the PDF Keyword Searcher! This application is a powerful tool designed to help you find specific words, phrases, or error codes within a large collection of PDF documents.

Instead of an exact match, the tool uses "fuzzy searching," which allows you to find text that is *similar* to your search term. It then presents the results in a clear table, shows you the best match it found, and lets you export everything to a CSV file for your records.

## 2. Getting Started

The application is a single executable file (.exe) and requires no installation.

### How to Use the Application

Follow these simple steps to start your search.

#### Step 1: Launch the Application

Double-click the pdf\_finder.exe file to start the program.

#### Step 2: Select a Folder

The first thing you'll see is a dialog box asking you to select a folder. Navigate to the main folder that contains all the PDF files you want to search. The tool will automatically search through this folder and all of its subfolders.

#### Step 3: Enter Your Search Phrase

Next, a small window will pop up asking for the text you want to find. Type the word, sentence, or error code you are looking for into the text box and click **OK**.

#### Step 4: Set the Similarity Threshold

Because the app doesn't just look for exact matches, you need to tell it how similar the text in the PDF should be to your search phrase.

- **100%** means you are looking for a very close match.
- **80%** (the default) is a good balance for finding relevant results that might have small differences.
- A lower value like **60%** will find more results, but they may be less accurate.

Enter a number between 0 and 100 and click **OK**.

#### Step 5: Wait for the Search to Complete

A progress window will appear, showing you which file is currently being scanned and how many have been completed. The search may take some time depending on the number and

size of your PDF files.

### 3. Understanding and Using the Results

Once the search is finished, a results window will appear.

#### The Results Table

The table displays all the matches that were found:

- **Sr. No.:** A sequential number for each result.
- **File Name:** The name of the PDF file where a match was found.
- **Similarity:** The percentage of how closely the text in the PDF matched your search phrase.
- **Best Match Found:** The actual text from the PDF that gave the highest similarity score. This gives you context for the match.
- **Full Path:** The complete location of the file on your computer.

#### Interacting with Results

- **Open File Location:** You can **double-click** on any row in the results table. This will immediately open Windows File Explorer with the corresponding PDF file highlighted, so you don't have to hunt for it.

#### Exporting to CSV

- **Save Your Findings:** Click the **"Export to CSV"** button at the bottom of the results window.
- A "Save As" dialog will appear, allowing you to choose a name and location for your CSV file. This file can be opened in Microsoft Excel or other spreadsheet programs and will contain all the information from the results table.

### 4. Troubleshooting & FAQ

Q: The search found no results. What should I do?

A: Try lowering the "Similarity Threshold" (e.g., from 80% to 70%) to allow for less exact matches. Also, double-check your search phrase for any typos.

Q: The search is taking a very long time.

A: The search speed is directly related to the number of PDFs and the amount of text within them. If you have thousands of large files, the process can take several minutes. The progress bar will keep you updated.

Q: Can the application read scanned PDFs?

A: The application can only read PDFs that contain actual text (i.e., you can highlight the text with your mouse). It cannot read text from scanned images or pictures inside a PDF.