Super ninja web searching

@DeniseMalan
@IRE_NICAR

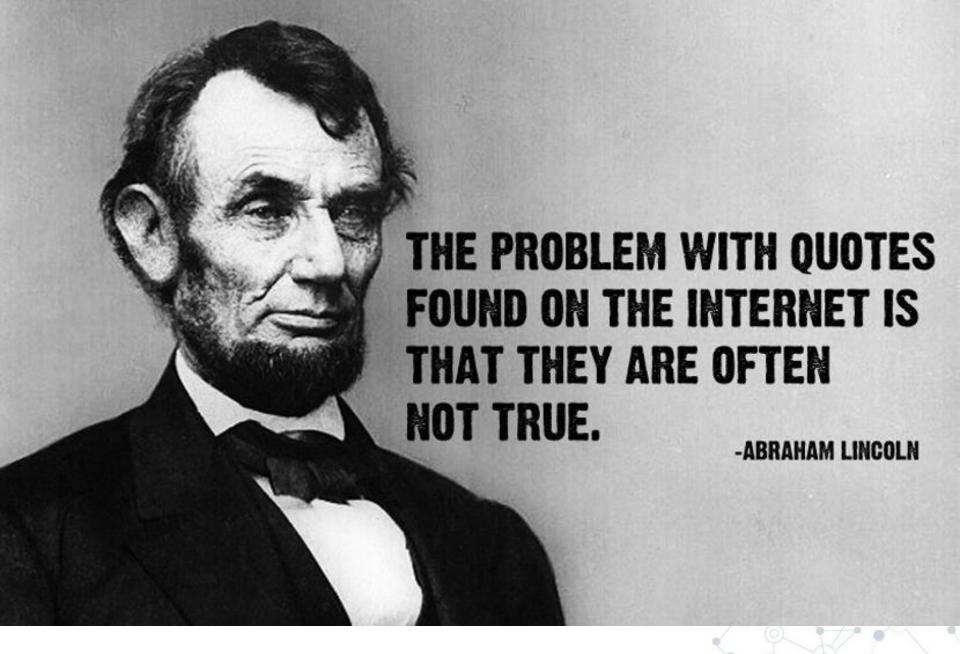


Think like a researcher

 Internet creates a lot of noise — have a search strategy

Look for experts, studies, datasets

Evaluate the source — is it current, reputable?



Keep your journalist's skepticism

Backgrounding & research tips



Stay organized

As you search, log all the records you find in a spreadsheet, noting date, address, description, notes, connections, source, link, etc. Print electronic files to a pdf and keep in a folder.



Search yourself

Run your own name, friends through websites to get an idea of reliability.



Use a checklist

And background all sources - even for features and sports.



Expand your search

Background relatives, business associates. Talk to old neighbors, teachers, etc.



Verify, verify, verify

Verify all information. Go to primary source documents to cq information found on the web or in news accounts.



Think outside the box

Obituaries, marriage and divorce records and other civil filings can be great places to find relatives and property or personal details. Voter registries typically include birth dates and addresses.

Log everything!

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	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
1	Date	Place	Event	Event type	Source agency		Description	Notes
2	3/14/1988	Houston, TX	Hilcorp founded	business filing	Texas Secretary of State		Jeffrey D. Hildebrand founds company, with William P. Swenson listed as agent.	h Need to vf with Texas SOS
3	4/8/2016	Anchorage, AK	Employment lawsuit filed	lawsuit	Alaska Civil Superior Court		David Diaz sued Hilcorp Alaska for r employment matters.	Trial scheduled week of 04/10/2017
4	12/30/2015	Prudhoe Bay, AK	OSHA inspection, violations found	violation/fine	OSHA		Hilcorp Alaska fined \$10,000 for two serious violations found during referral OSHA inspection	S
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Morning Mix

These high school journalists investigated a new principal's credentials. Days later, she resigned.

By Samantha Schmidt April 5



Most Read

These high school journalists investigated a new principal's credentials. Days later, she resigned.



Secret Service agent on Pence's detail suspended after meeting with prostitute



3 They met with immigration officers to apply for legal residency — only to be arrested by ICE



4 Gender non-binary star Asia Kate

6 Investigates: Mayor Dan McQueen's Credentials

 Posted: Jan 16, 2017 6:00 PM CST Updated: Jan 17, 2017 12:10 PM CST



The Short, Tumultuous Tenure Of Corpus Christi Mayor Dan McQueen

AFTER 37 DAYS IN OFFICE, DAN MCQUEEN RESIGNED AS MAYOR OF CORPUS CHRISTI. HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED.

JANUARY 23, 2017 | by LEIF REIGSTAD | 2 COMMENTS

Mayor Dan McQueen takes to Facebook to resign

Corpus Christi mayoral candidate falsely touted as Olympic gold winner



The Caller-Times is hosting Facebook Live interviews with the Corpus Christi mayoral candidates. Reporter Matt Woolbright spoke with candidate Margareta Fratila live on Facebook.

read "Honored to have Olympic Gold Medalist, Margareta Fratila as our guest speaker last! #inspiringleader." The problem: No record exists proving Fratila, who owns a floral design business in Corpus Christi, was even on the team, let alone on the medal newsrooms. MORE STORIES

UPDATE: Missing disabled woman found safe June 10, 2018, 8:07 p.m.

Crews battle hotel fire in



Start with a better Google



Keys to better Googling

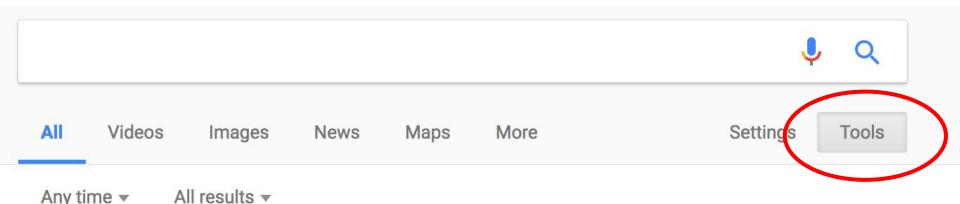
Advanced Search

Use operators (" | -)

Filetype: (.xls, .pdf)

Limit to domain (site:)

Date sort or filter (tools)



Dan Russell's <u>power searching course</u>

- Advanced search operators
- Investigating with search (IRE2016)

Google isn't the only game in town

DuckDuckGo

Doesn't track search history or ISP addresses

MillionShort

Allows you to remove top search results.





Ghosts of internet past & future

- Wayback Machine
- WebsiteWatcher (\$), Versionista, ChangeDetection or FollowThatPage to track website revision
- <u>SiteDelta</u>, a Firefox add-on to track website changes
- Similar Sites will pull a bunch of related sites

But search engines typically miss:

- O Database information
- O Content behind firewalls
- O Content behind registration screens
- ASP / dynamically generated pages
- Robot.txt excluded pages



Backgrounding sources

WHOISJOHNDOE

Great checklist and starting point from Reporter.org

Free public records portals: <u>BRB Publications</u>, <u>Portico</u>, <u>Free Public Records Directory</u>, <u>SearchSystems</u>

People finders - U.S.

- <u>Familytreenow</u>, <u>Pipl</u>, <u>PeekYou</u>, <u>SocialMention</u>, <u>That'sThem</u>
- Zabasearch for addresses
- VINplace for vehicle info/phone numbers
- <u>Hunter.io</u> for emails

Business & property

- Corporationwiki and OpenCorporates
- Who is behind a <u>website</u>?
- What <u>domains</u> have been registered lately?
- USAspending and Canadian government contract information
- Canada PPSA: lien, bankruptcy and property title searches

Political donations

U.S.

- Federal: <u>FEC</u> or <u>OpenSecrets</u>
- States: <u>Followthemoney</u> and check individual state elections website

Canada:

Federal and fed + provincial

Courts & crime

U.S.

- PACER for federal courts
- State courts have individual websites
- Court Listener from Free Law Project for free access

Canada

- Federal Court of Canada
- Provincial courts have individual websites

Social media sleuthing

- IntelTechniques
- Facebook graph search
- Whopostedwhat.com
- Searchisback.com



Social media sleuthing



- Twitter <u>advanced search</u> (try adding "me" to search)
- Snapbird and Foller.me,Account Analysis
- Politician deleted tweets:politiwoops
- Allmytweets

Social media sleuthing

- <u>LinkedIn for Journalists</u>
- Skrapp.io scrapes emails from LinkedIn

<u>Lusha Chrome extension</u>scrapes email & phone



Don't forget about these

MySpace

 <u>Crowdfunding</u>: GoFundMe, IndieGoGo, Fundly, GiveForward

Others?

Social media verification

- Moaxy
- BotorNot

Other OSoMe Tools (Indiana University)



Images & verification

Google image search (by URL or uploaded image

Check exif info: http://exifdata.com/, Exifviewer for Firefox or Chrome

<u>FotoForensics.com</u> - Error level analysis

Cool web tools: Academic research

- Google Scholar
- Base-Search.net
- OpenAIRE
- JournalTocs
- Network.bepress.com
- SSRN

h/t Gary Price of infoDOCKET.com

Cool web tools: Archiving, organizing

Webrecorder.io - records content of web page

<u>Archive.is</u> - web page archiver

 Chrome download manager - download all files on a page

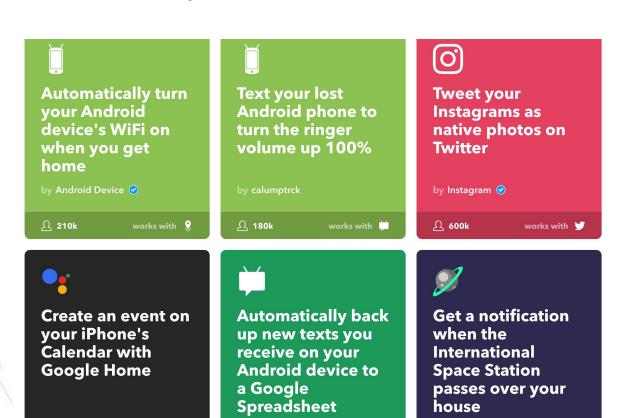
Zotero - free organizing tool

Alerts - let info come to you

Google alert

IFTTT: create recipes

GovTrack.us YouTube Notifications



Some IFTTT ideas for journalists

- Have tweets with specific content sent to a Google spreadsheet
- O Get a digest of tweets in a specific area
- Send photos to shared spaces, like Dropbox
- Twitter embeds of Instagram photos
- © Email or text alerts from new RSS feed keywords

Jacksonville group aims to fight human trafficking

People aren't aware that "slaves are being trafficked down I-95," says advocate.

Comments





Meet Dan Benedict!

Former Green Beret and nurse
Born-again Christian
Leader of new nonprofit
devoted to rescuing exploited
girls from pimps and traffickers

Florida Times-Union, Nov. 12, 2010

... Sexual predator, and white separatist weapons stockpiler guy



jacksonville.com

Posted December 1, 2010 12:00 am | Updated July 11, 2011 11:49 am By Kate Howard Perry



Benedict was featured in a Times-Union story on Nov. 12 as part of a growing movement in Jacksonville to combat human trafficking. The newspaper learned after publication that Benedict has a felony conviction stemming from a 2002 sexual incident with his then 16-year-old stepdaughter. Newspaper archives and court records also

show evidence of past involvement in the stockpiling of stolen military weapons by a white separatist movement.

Meet Greg Packer: The Most Photographed, Quoted Guy in News By Jim Vorel | November 21, 2013 | 4:15pm TV > NEWS f Share P Pin ■ Tweet Don't quote this guy

THE MOST QUOTED MAN IN NEWS from Andrew David Watson on Vimeo.

Paste

05:21

When you're a person like Greg Packer, though, you eventually get noticed. Since his retirement in the early 2000s, Packer's main hobby has been getting himself quoted, photographed and filmed in every way possible. He's been in the background of political rallies. He's attended Superbowls and World Series even without being a fan of either team. He's met Presidents and Popes. He even sat out in front of an Apple store for a week—not because he wanted the new iPhone, but because he wanted to be interviewed about it.

Resources

- IRE backgrounding checklist
- IntelTechniques books, blog, links, podcast
- Bellingcat digital toolkit



