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[Google News Search parameters (The Missing Manual)](#)

There is a severe lack of documentation of Google News Search's query parameters. Here is the most comprehensive list I am aware of. A number of these overlap with Google Search's query parameters. I exclude any Google Search parameters that don't make sense in the context of Google News Search. These parameters are primarily of interest to anyone querying Google News for articles using its RSS and Atom output formats.

Search

The following query parameters control Google's interpretation of keywords. Although `as_epq` may be attractive for some use cases, it breaks sorting by date (`scoring=n`) when `output` is "rss" or "atom", so stick with `q` for consistent sorting. **Update:** It seems the `as_*` parameters don't work when `output` is "rss" or "atom".

- `q=TERMS` retrieve results with all of the terms. Alias: `as_q`
- `as_epq=TERMS` retrieve results with the exact phrase
- `as_oq=TERMS` retrieve results with at least one of the words
- `as_eq=TERMS` retrieve results without the terms
- `as_occt=SECTION` retrieve results where my terms occur…
  - `any` anywhere in the article
  - `title` in the headline of the article (same as using "allintitle:" in `q`)
  - `body` in the body of the article (same as using "allintext:" in `q`)
  - `url` in the URL of the article (same as using "allinurl:" in `q`)

Filter

The following query parameters filter results by Google News edition, topic, location, date, news source or author.

- `ned=EDITION` limits results to a specific edition. Possible values: [editions](#)
- `topic=TOPIC` limits results to a specific topic. Possible values: [topics](#)
- `geo=LOCATION` limits results to a specific location
  - `detect_metro_area` determines location based on IP
  - a city, state, country, or US zip code
- `as_drrb=q` retrieves articles added by Google News…
  - `as_qdr=a` anytime
  - `as_qdr=h` last hour
  - `as_qdr=d` last day
  - `as_qdr=w` past week
  - `as_qdr=m` past month
  - `as_qdr=y` past year

- `as_drrb=b` retrieves articles added by Google News between…
  - `as_minm=NUM` minimum month. Possible values: [1, 12]
  - `as_mind=NUM` minimum day. Possible values: [1, 31]
  - `as_maxm=NUM` maximum month. Possible values: [1, 12]
  - `as_maxd=NUM` maximum day. Possible values: [1, 31]
- `as_nsrc=SOURCE` limits results to a specific news source (same as using "source:" in `q`)
- `as_nloc=LOCATION` limits results to news sources from a specific location (same as using "location:" in `q`)
- `as_author` limits results to a specific author (same as using "author:" in `q`)

The `as_ddrb` family of parameters is occasionally set using the `tbs` parameter when using the web interface. You do not need to learn the `tbs` syntax. Note that `as_nloc` and `geo` are not synonymous.

Boost

I'm not confident that these parameters do anything when `output` is "rss" or "atom", but here they are for completeness.

- `gl=COUNTRY` boosts search results from a specific country of origin. Possible values: country codes
- `gll=LATITUDE,LONGITUDE` boosts search results near that point. Latitude and longitude must be integer microdegrees. In otherwords, multiply each number by a million and round to the nearest integer.
- `gr=REGION` boosts search results from a specific region. Possible values: province codes
- `gm=METRO` boosts search results from a specific metropolitan area. Possible values: metro codes
- `gpc=ZIPCODE` boosts search results from a specific zip code. `gl` must be "us".
- `gcs=CITY` boosts search results from a specific city. Possible values: city names in the United States and worldwide

Order

- `scoring=ORDER` sorts search results. Default: "r". Alias: "as_scoring"
  - "r" by relevance
  - "n" by date (newest first)
  - "d" by date (newest first) with duplicates
  - "o" by date (oldest first)

Paginate

- `num=NUM` retrieves NUM results. Default: 10. Possible values: if `q` present [1,100], otherwise [1, 30]
- `start=OFFSET` retrieves results starting from OFFSET. NUM plus OFFSET must be less than 1000, otherwise you will get zero results. Ignored if `output` is "rss" or "atom". Default: 0. Requires `q`.

Output

- `output=FORMAT` sets the output format
  - `rss` retrieves RSS feed
  - `atom` retrieves Atom feed
- `hl=LANGUAGE` sets host language. Default: "us". Possible values: languages
- `hdlOnly=1` displays headlines only
- `qsid=ID` used in combination with `cf=q`. **Update:** This feature has been removed.

In older versions of Google News, it was possible to change the output of the web interface using a `cf` parameters. It no longer seems to work, but it is here for completeness. Note that when `output` is set to "rss" or "atom", this parameter is in fact ignored.

- `cf=CODE`
    - `all` retrieve any content
    - `q` retrieve only quotes. Requires `qsid`. **Update:** This feature has been removed.
    - `i` retrieve only images
    - `b` retrieve only blogs

Google tracking

Google uses parameters to track how users are using the web interface, which may include `aq`, `authuser`, `btnmeta_news_search`, `edchanged`, `client`, `rls`, `oi`, `oq`, `resnum`, `sa`, `source`, `sourceid`, `swrnum`, `tab`. You don't need to worry about these, unless you want to bias Google's internal statistics on user behavior.

Google Search

If using the web interface, performing a keyword search from Google News will redirect you to a Google Search page. The `tbm=nws` query parameter informs Google to display news results only.

Undocumented

I haven't yet figured out what these do, but their impact seems minimal. If you have a clue, please mention it in the comments!

- `pz` is usually set to 1. Default: 1. Possible values: [0, 1]
- `ict` Possible values: "ln", "itn0", "tnv0"
- `csid`

Deprecated

The following parameters work only on the deprecated Google News Search API.

- `v=1.0` sets the API version. Possible values: "1.0"
- `rsz=SIZE` sets results size
    - `small` retrieves four results
    - `large` retrieves eight results
- `userip` sets user's IP as an abuse counter-mesure
- `callback` runs JavaScript callback
- `context` sets callback context
- `key` sets API key

Sources

- Search Protocol Reference, Google
- Google WebSearch Protocol Reference for Google Site Search, Google
- Google News Search API: JSON Developer's Guide, Google

- [Creating a Custom News Search Widget Using the Google Search API](#), AdobePress
- [Google Search URL Parameters – Query String Anatomy](#), BlueGlass

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