

Currently, no web browser natively supports PDF, forcing viewers to run a separate application to access these documents online. Since the PDF specification is not published by the [W3C](#), this is unlikely to change.

[\[edit\]](#)

Searching for a text in a collection of files

[Adobe Acrobat](#) Reader 6.0 and above allow searching a collection of PDF files.

Using a search program to search for a text in a collection of files of different types, it may or may not be possible to also search PDF files, depending on the program. This is because the text is stored in coded form, and a program searching for some text must interpret the code and search the result, not just search the code.

Search programs that do not work include that of [Windows XP](#) and [Agent Ransack](#). However, for searching the Web, some search engines, such as [Google](#) and [Yahoo!](#), include PDF files in searches. The option to view the PDF in HTML format is also commonly offered (this conversion does not include images).

[Mac OS X](#), having PDF as a core element of the operating system, fully supports searching PDF files with the [Preview](#) application, used to view PDF files. The [Spotlight](#) feature in [Mac OS X v10.4](#) extends this ability across the whole operating system, allowing information in PDF files (as well as almost all others) to be found from a single search box.

On the Windows platform, text in PDF files can be searched using [Google Desktop Search](#) and also [Windows Desktop Search](#) when installed with an [appropriate iFilter](#) available from [Adobe](#).

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Types of content

A PDF file for e.g. a [map](#) is often a combination of [vector graphics layer](#), text, and [raster graphics](#), e.g., the general reference map of the US [\[9\]](#) uses:

- vector graphics for [coastlines](#), [lakes](#), [rivers](#), [highways](#), markings of cities, and [Interstate highway](#) symbols — on zooming in, the curves remain sharp, they do not appear as consisting of enlarged pixels (i.e. rectangles of pixels)
- text stored as such — scalable, and also one can copy the text
- raster graphics for showing mountain relief — on zooming in, this consists of enlarged pixels (the blue of the sea and lakes is "filled" neatly to the vector graphics coast line, hence not in raster graphics).

An example of a PDF map without raster graphics is the [CIA World Factbook's map of the Arctic](#). In the same publication's [European map](#), the blue of the sea is not "filled" neatly to the vector graphics coast line, but just raster graphics, giving a cruder result (noticeable when highly zoomed in).