



Francesco Vianello

# FRAVIA

## The Art of Searching

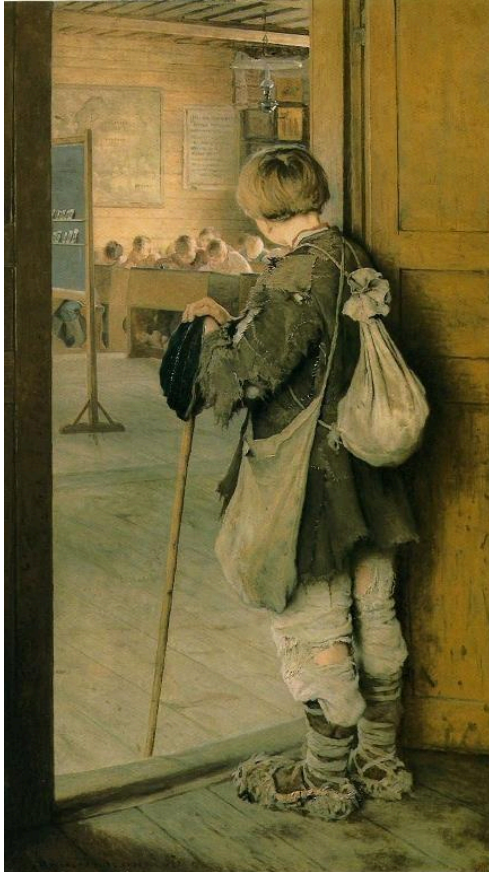
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

• BIOGRAPHY •	5
• THE ART OF SEARCHING •	7
• FROM QUESTION TO QUERY •	8
• LONG TERM SEARCH •	9
• QUICK SEARCHING TIPS •	16
• THREE SEARCH TECHNIQUES •	19
• GOLDEN RULES OF A SEEKER •	24
• EVALUATING INFORMATION QUALITY •	26
• SEVEN QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE •	27
• PROFESSOR SIELAFF'S LESSONS •	29
• REVERSING REALITY •	33
• PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF REVERSING REALITY •	36
• HACKING MILITARY PROPAGANDA •	40
• STEGANOGRAPHY •	44
• NOTES ON THE SEEKING •	47
• APPENDIX A •	51



## Introduction

This is a collection of materials by a cracker and seeker, known by the **+Fravia**. He is the creator of an extensive online resource about the art of searching and related skills. He was the first renowned person to approach searching as an art, creating a school of network searching, describing the aesthetics and logic of this process at all stages, and adapting it to real life with the help of associates.

## Translator's preface

Initially, it was a cycle of articles for the "Netstalking Overground" project based on translated Fravia's pages. Soon the desire appeared to create something more extensive and accurately convey the spirit of the original texts.

The book was divided into sections covering the main topics of Fravia's labyrinth-like website. Some chapters contained a faithful translation, while in some places the text was assembled piece by piece from various introductory articles, advice, and discussions. Therefore, it is more accurate to refer to it as an adaptation. On the website, many materials repeated the same ideas, and sometimes they were too verbose for a complete translation. In some places, it was necessary to rephrase to convey the meaning or a joke. The use of bold or italic font in certain places is taken from the original, and Latin or German phrases are provided without translation: unfamiliar expressions are intended to evoke the reader's investigative impulse according to the author's intention. Finally, there were a few translator's notes.

In the book, not everything represents the complete heritage of the author; a significant portion of the advice, methods, and research has become outdated. Imagine what a treasure trove Fravia's website was for aspiring seekers when all of this was relevant! However, the fundamentals of interacting with the network and the impact of information on people have not changed since then. Therefore, the systemic approach typical for these materials will be valuable to the modern netstalking community.

Fravia's opinions on net journeys, information processing, and propaganda didn't always align with mine, but they are presented as they are. I recommend readers to adapt what they read to their needs and perspectives, as the author himself advised.

Welcome, wanderer!

*Wegwarte*

## Adapter's preface

By a lucky coincidence (could fate do otherwise?) I learned about the works of Fravia in the netstalking community, which grew up in the early 2010s as a bizarre mixture of young network seekers, explorers of the depths and secrets of the Internet, and bored mature techno-geeks with skills in software development and information security.

Searchlores.org not only was, but remains a treasure for people interested in Search Art, and it's a big loss that Fravia is not remembered that often now. I consider his thoughts fundamental and am still amazed that people often reinvent some methods and tricks without sincerely trying to find out if anyone has done it before them. But no less important is that the world stopped even trying to discuss the philosophy underlying the Search, because the search process had become too casual and commercialized.

On the one hand, Fravia's site has many mirrors, and was deliberately created in a form of intertwined pages. *Quaere et invenies*. On the other hand, times have changed, and any valuable information should be published on more modern and accessible mediums so as not to be lost in the dusty archives of collective memory.

Out of respect for the authors of the translated adaptation, which has already won its readership, the book was taken as a basis. Most of the texts are taken from the original, but some have been translated again and adapted. For ease of reading, source pages are indicated in the footnotes, and known mirrors and archives of Searchlores were put in Appendix A. If you find an error or want to suggest an improvement, please report, and it will be corrected/added in the next revision of this book.

What's our life? A search.

*Soxoj*

## • BIOGRAPHY •

Francesco Vianello (August 30, 1952 – May 3, 2009) was a reverse engineer and hacker known as Fravia or +Fravia. He wrote articles, conducted lectures, and provided online education focused on reverse engineering techniques, steganography, and methods of searching on the internet. In his lessons, he shared his experience of anonymity and de-anonymizing spammers, taught information elicitation, reversed the meaning of advertising, and explored ways to get rid of it.

He compiled all these materials on his website, creating a clever web archive full of tangled tracks and references to classical culture: music, painting, rhetoric, Latin expressions. The site also includes articles and logs of discussions among like-minded individuals. During the author's lifetime, the online resource had millions of views each year.

Francesco was a polyglot and, by education, a historian of the early Middle Ages. He was a participant in the "High Cracking University", founded by the veteran reverser known as +ORC. As a mark of membership in this community, he added a plus sign to his nickname.

True to his principles of anonymity, Francesco strictly separated his online activities and identity from his real-life person. He even wrote a fake autobiography to protect himself from "malicious seekers". According to some posts and logs on the website, in Usenet conference discussions within the seeker community, conflicts occasionally arose. In particular, Fravia managed to annoy many spammers by teaching people how to uncover their tricks.

### **Fravia as Fjalar Ravia**

Fravia's fake autobiography goes like this: He was born on August 30, 1952, in Oulu, Finland, into the family of Gunnar, a military poet known as "Partisan Lieutenant Ravia", who participated in battles against the Nazis. His mother, Anu, was a teacher who had once flown across the Atlantic Ocean on a seaplane. His sister, Silja, became a recognized local artist. Fjalar studied applied software entomology at Savonlinna University. His thesis on "Detection and Subsequent Eradication of Software Bugs" was published in a prestigious student scientific journal in Helsinki. Later, he studied medieval history and rhetoric in Berlin under the guidance of one of the greatest mentors of Europe's university last century, Dr. Frithjof Sielaff.

His hobbies and non-professional activities include web publicism, reverse engineering, and defense; anti-advertising activities; reality hacking; and, finally, beer tasting (especially Belgian beer). He is known under aliases such as fravia+, msre, Spini, Red Avenger, S Sustrugiel, Pellet, Ravia F. One of his notable abilities is to NOT watch television for several months. He listens to classical music, plays chess, and engages in strategy games.

## Fravia as Fravia <sup>1</sup>

As a follower of [+ORC](#), Fravia dedicated half of his activities to reverse engineering. He posted step-by-step tutorials on his website. He also analyzed the possibilities and vulnerabilities of steganography. However, one day he removed many materials from public access, citing "security measures". Fravia's website was shut down by hosting providers several times.

As the internet grew and evolved into a crucial tool for accessing information, Fravia believed that this access should be more open. The idea of network search, "search art", became the foundation for his second stage of online activity. He explained how the content of the World Wide Web was structured at that time and how to overcome difficulties in finding relevant information. He vehemently criticized the rapid growth of internet advertising, which he considered the peddling of unnecessary products to naive consumers.

DVD Jon<sup>2</sup>, a reverse engineer of file formats, acknowledges Fravia's website as one of the sources of his inspiration.

## Fravia as Francesco

He graduated from the University of Venice with a master's degree in history and philosophy. He lived in Brussels with his wife and three children. His primary interests were history and the arts, along with the collaborative creation of a knowledge corpus on self-learning and web search as a new form of art. He was proficient in six languages, including Latin.

Despite maintaining high anonymity, he frequently spoke at conferences, mainly focused on hacking, and made friends connected to the cracking scene, programming, and web development. One of his friends, who introduced himself online as Baron Fulwood, described him as an incredibly hospitable and stubborn enthusiast who enjoyed engaging in long conversations and making sharp-witted jokes. He mentioned that Fravia and Francesco were different, but he liked Francesco more.

Francesco Vianello even had a live acquaintance with Richard Stallman. His cracker contributions to the analysis of Windows are mentioned in Stallman's article "Ubuntu Spyware: What to do?".

Fravia passed away from cancer on May 3, 2009. Several copies of his website exist on the internet, preserving the seeker's articles from oblivion.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191018230130/http://search.lores.eu/io13.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon\\_Lech\\_Johansen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Lech_Johansen)

## • THE ART OF SEARCHING • <sup>3</sup>

Which search should be considered long-term and which one short-term? Any short stroll can turn into a journey. However, there are common features:

- **Short-term Search:** You need an answer to a single question, an example, or a piece of content on a specific topic.
- **Long-term Search:** There is no clear answer to your questions yet; you are conducting research, and you need all possible content on a certain topic.

### Essential Foundations

One of the impressive and useful features of the Web is that it is indexed differently from other types of information. Because of this, access to it may seem complicated. Commercial search engines, as the most popular way to reach web pages, return heaps of results. A short and general query risks overwhelming you with thousands of pages, many of which are unrelated to the search topic (irrelevant). Often, the main problem is that there are **too many results in the search**.

You see, it's not only difficult to *find* information but also to *evaluate* it afterwards, picking out the qualitative part. Suppose the search returned only 200 results: they may be valuable, or maybe not. Even if you have an excellent “zen”-perception of the text, allowing you to skim a web page in just half a minute, deciding whether to delve into it... Then, for just this one query, you will spend 100 minutes! More than one and a half hours sniffing through pages, and they may be stale! That's why it's important to learn techniques to sift through a significant part of the “catch”. This will make it easier for you to pick a “fine fish” for your “search dinner”.

Search engines, depending on the algorithm, produce different results if you vary the word order in the query, their frequency, use rare or strange words, search by meta-tags. Moreover, all major search engines are **deliberately filled with spam**: resources that manipulate algorithms and strive to rise to the top of search results. Such web pages are generated dynamically right under your query, insert keywords into unrelated material, repeat them in all word forms, and so on.

Always remember one more thing: before starting a search, ask yourself: has anyone done this work before me? More details about this will be covered in the subsection on thorough searching.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121051202/http://search.lores.eu/introd.htm>

## • FROM QUESTION TO QUERY •

Let's say we have a primary question: "Where to find the flag of Ireland?"

It is very general, so a search engine query with this question will not provide a precise result. What does the inquirer really want to find? It could be one of the following options:

1. Wants to see an image of the Irish flag.
2. Wants to know the exact colors of the flag (e.g., to depict or manufacture it).
3. Wants to learn the history of the national flag of Ireland, and perhaps all its variations.

Here are the queries for each of these cases:

1. The searcher quickly types "*Irish flag*" into an image search.
2. Exact colors can be obtained in Pantone codes. For example, searching for "*Irish flag Pantone*". If they need to use the colors for web design, they could search for a code converter: *Pantone to HTML*.
3. The best sites for this are specialized ones. For example, about Ireland itself. So, the idea is to search for the required query in Gaelic: *bhratach na hÉireann*. A simpler way is to come across resources dedicated to flags in general. In this case, search for "*world flags*", "*history of world flags*". Also, you can try more direct queries: *history of the Irish flag*, *history of the Irish tricolor* (use synonyms!). The key is to avoid spam sites with secondary information and [attempts to sell something](#)! In the English-speaking internet, they often have a ".com" domain.



## • LONG TERM SEARCH • <sup>4</sup>

Many of the listeners of my lectures have said that some techniques are "waay too complicated for their needs", and they want to know what I do "in practice" when searching for a specific goal.

The answer is as follows. Of course, the approach to the search depends, firstly, on the type of goal; secondly, the task should not be too modest (finding a book, music file, or program once is a minimum to start with). And yes, this is not to say that there is nothing complex in our techniques, as the web was created from the beginning to share materials :–) Our search and discovery techniques turn out to be almost banal, once you explain and feel them (in general, many things turn out to be banal post factum, such is life).

However, a request for a systematic presentation is entirely understandable and important. I will list some points that seekers should consider before embarking on "long-term searches". The input of experience from other seekers would be very useful here. And yes: most of the advice here applies to any search, not just online.

### What is a long term search?

There is a huge difference between quick searching (for example, when you want to find a specific book) and your personal, usually few and far between, thematic searches that take a considerable amount of time. Over a year, or a lifetime, a person may have two or three "searching passions": they relate to goals that are dear to this person's heart. Perhaps related to work, but in my opinion, it's better if they are related to the pursuit of knowledge.

Simple everyday searching is such that if you haven't found your goal in about 15 minutes, then most likely you are searching incorrectly. But in the case of a long-term search, the strategy will change, evolve, and refine right in the process. Timeframe? Perhaps more than a week. Maybe more than a month. Maybe more than a year. For my own search, I'm afraid a whole lifetime won't be enough.

So, here, the search is a process. In it, to learn more, you need to know something beforehand. Therefore, for your most beloved goals, you will have to become an expert in both searching and evaluating the quality of results.

And most importantly, before embarking on a long journey, prepare yourself at least a little. **Estote parati! Be prepared!**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022014453/http://search.lores.eu/longtermsearching.htm>

## Long term searching: rules and advice <sup>5</sup>

### 1. Develop your search strategy: prepare a written plan

This is REALLY important. Spend five minutes on a "brainstorming" session before you start, write down a preliminary list of keywords, and your vision of what you need to find. It will pay off when you get lost inside the dark web-woods.

Break down your query into parts and find synonyms for these parts. Often, you may sense the concept you're looking for, but the words elude you. Then you can use the "synecdochical searching method": refine your query as you search. Come up with the clearest possible query, and then refine it based on what you find. Nevertheless, it's always worth working on a written list first. Prepare a list of requests before you set out. Even if you already know: the formulation of your search topic will change beyond recognition on this journey.

### 2. Prioritize queryterms and concepts

Now that you have that list of terms, you need to put some order into it.

You should specify not only your scope, but also the limits of your search (careful when limiting to specific document types!). You should list as many concepts that should not be included as possible, and limit your query, if necessary, by publication date (using any good daterange utility). Be careful with date limits as well: systematic searches should try to gather all relevant material regardless of date.

So the most effective "limiting" approach will mostly be term-related, and based on the exclusion of some specific operators. For instance, for google: -intitle:, -allintitle:, -inurl:, -allinurl:, -allintext:, -inanchor: and so on. For yahoo, -path:, -inurl: and so on.

Here a classical (short term and book related) "four-pruned" example:

```
"title:index title:of" -originurlextension:htm -originurlextension:html  
-papers -copyright +Oreilly
```

It searches for html pages related to O'Reilly publications but does not contain the words "article" and "copyright".

Just as a gardener trims tree branches to restrain and tailor their growth to suit the garden's needs, do the same with your queries!

Usually, adding complex operators to a query doesn't increase its effectiveness as much as using more appropriate terms in the query. Not bad, for example, a refined query works well -"site:com" (removes all sites on the .com domain from the results, as they often contain commercial clutter; good riddance :-). However, choose new words for the query that are strictly related to your

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<sup>5</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191106004852/http://search.lores.eu/longtermsearching.htm#rules>

topic, and the outlines of the goal will stand out much brighter against the backdrop of the network's cluttered advertising noise. You can try to achieve the same result by piling up search engine operators, but it's not always worth the time spent.

A graphical approach may be very useful in this context: a simple column structure (on the left the concepts, on the right the terms), will help you as a first quick "frame reference", while some Euler diagrams will allow you to quickly grasp the "form" and the "color" of your query. Visualization and clustering search engines can be developed for this purpose. They show the query's image, allowing the searcher to sense the goal even before delving into the forest of results.

Sometimes it makes sense to "take a risk" and include in the query words that, while attracting a lot of unnecessary information, allow you to pick up several relevant results.

### **3. Run preliminary searches in order to "feel the searchscape"**

Take at least three different search engines. Soon you'll feel that the results don't overlap too much. So, what do you think now: is your list of queries sufficient, or do you need to do more?

Be prepared for the fact that each refinement of the query (expanding or narrowing it) will add more results that you have to sift through. Therefore, it's often a good idea to start with those queries (consisting, I remind you, of pre-selected words) that are most specific to your topic, most important, or at least should occur less frequently.

The more terms you include in the query, the fewer results the search engine will return. The success or failure of the search journey will depend on the choice of terms, shuffling them between query options, and adapting them to the type of space you will be exploring. The overall network? A specific database? An online library? Also, usually, if searching through a text corpus is anticipated, it's worth formulating the query as accurately and verbosely as possible. And if you need to browse through titles (for example, searching a journal catalog) exception statements need to be used much more carefully. That is, the general rule is that the volume of words in a search query (excluding operators) is usually proportional to the volume of data you need to find.

At this stage, the searcher shoots randomly: testing different combinations of queries. In simpler terms, you launch the search engine, examine general patterns in the results, carefully study a couple of the most relevant results, and then rewrite the query to make it more effective. Only one change at a time! Then test it. Only if the results improve, you can add something else. Otherwise, you won't understand which specific change had the optimal impact on the results.

Here we are still in the iterative phase – going around in circles of trials and errors. But now you are beginning to sense your quarry. Somewhere in the noise, a clear signal starts to emerge. The search approach with the reshuffling of concepts and terms is coming to an end. And if it has to be modified in the subsequent stages, then we will have to go through such a primary search again. But enough of the talk. It's time for us to move on to the search "operational" techniques!

#### **4. Let's now wade into the morasses. Comb the deep deep web**

By *combing*, I mean extracting the results that concern the work of other seekers. That is, searching for those who have spent years on the issue, found and gathered the results together. The network is vast, and it is quite possible to find, for example, a weirdo who has compiled and posted a complete catalog of the Yak-2 fighter plane with all conceivable and inconceivable plans, data, and projects related to it online. Such resources are like knots on the network threads, and as we comb through, we come across them with our comb.

It could be: journals, books, and other digital literature on the searched topic; databases (collections) of this literature; thematic forums. The goal is to find as many resources as possible related to the specific question.

Scientific journals may not provide access to articles for commercial reasons, but copies of the articles may exist in the wild, that is, in other places on the network. After all, the network is designed to share knowledge. Communication/social engineering will be useful. It is possible to contact the authors found or people knowledgeable about the topic and ask them to share. Many people will be delighted that someone has taken an interest in their research work.

Gradually, patterns will begin to emerge among the materials found: the most important network platforms or experts on the topic will become apparent. The scent of the quarry intensifies. Meanwhile, you will gradually delve deeper into the area you are studying, gaining a better understanding of it. Therefore, you are now able to and should begin to evaluate the quality of the material found. This evaluation is an important aspect of this stage of the search.

And yes, evaluating means **COMPARING IT WITH YOUR PERSONAL PARAMETERS**, not someone else's. It is important to approach all newly acquired information responsibly. It's not just about grasping the pieces that you were already expecting to see even before the start of the search. It's necessary to approach the matter with an open mind, to think systematically and to obtain the most comprehensive picture from the results.

"Authoritative views" should be subject to doubt, and materials from the "conventional" search space should not be accepted if it turns out that your

search picture is directly opposite. It's quite possible that the people you find on the surface don't understand a thing about searching for information, but you still know what you're doing and are capable of going further. And all of this leads us to the next point.

### **5. Identify relevant unpublished or not widely distributed literature and sources (mow the "grey areas")**

This is more important than many self-proclaimed experts think. Today, many articles and even books are simply plagiarized information taken from the internet, often with errors. Seekers are better at noticing plagiarism than others.

Meanwhile, in unofficial forums, chats (for example, irc), blogs, and in "grey literature" – unpublished articles and unrecognized conferences – "grey hats" on the topic of interest to you may reside. People and micro-communities working in parallel to the official course on their interests in a similar area, the existence of which no one even suspects.

Of course, critical thinking and your evaluative skills, previously mentioned, are important here!

### **6. Review the written plan regularly to incorporate new discoveries. Try different approaches just in case**

Search is a PROCESS. It is extremely important to update your boundaries based on freshly found material. It's also worth recording alternative approaches to the question being studied.

Long-term search journeys require keeping a summary: the query and the search technique applied to it.

Good idea: try retracing your steps without using Google at all. You will have to go completely different paths, as alternative search engines (with different indexes) sometimes do not match Google or each other in their results. Make it a rule to, for example, go through your requests with non-standard search engines once every three months. You will like it, I know :–)

Do not ignore searching through FTP, blogs, conferences on different platforms.

## **7. Re-run your query using different languages**

Regional approaches are often underestimated. A common misconception is that if information is important, it will surely be available in English as well. This is not only untrue but also far from reality. Monolingual individuals are consistently amazed when they discover rich troves of original results in German, French, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Italian, Hindi, Chinese... just to name a few important languages, and the list could go on. There are plenty of translation tools available online.

By the way, it's worth noting that knowing (not to mention actively mastering and using) multiple languages is, consider it, a *sine qua non* for us, Web-seekers.

## **8. Keep records of all your search activities**

Systematic record keeping is OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE when searching. The classical mistake of almost all newbie seekers is to 'forget' to keep records during their long-term searches.

You can pre-create folders for your records, and at the end of the day, before turning off your computer, transfer everything accumulated and documented during the day into them.

In Opera [in older versions], there was a Note function that could be invoked with the right mouse button, saving both the selected txt and the page address, and the date. [Note: now, instead of it, there is My Flow].

In general, you can record in any way you like, even on pieces of paper with a pen. Just don't rely solely on your memory or your incredible search abilities, which will allow you to find everything again if needed. Otherwise, you'll regret it sooner than you can imagine.

## **9. How do you know if your search is/was effective or not? Check your mistakes**

The short answer is: you'll know because you'll feel it. :-)

And the long answer is: you will never be entirely sure.

The effectiveness of a search is measured by *precision* (how many pages retrieved through the search query are relevant to what you're looking for? 100%, 50%, 10%?) and *recall* (what proportion of all theoretically existing relevant pages was retrieved by this search query? 100%, 50%, 10%?). But, alas! Both parameters, especially the second one – recall – are impossible to evaluate in the conditions of the World Wide Web.

This is because it's impossible to manually or automatically identify the volumes of all existing target documents. It can only be measured in specific subsets of the network, such as databases.

Simpler searchers may think that a choice must be made between precision and recall: sacrificing one for the other. In reality, this depends heavily on the goal and the quality of the queries. In the early stages of the search, this is strongly felt, but with refinement – if you understand what you're doing – you can increase both precision and recall.

Another option is to use FRIENDS. Each seeker journeys in their own way. Each person sees different patterns in the same data. Combining the results of investigations by different participants working towards the same goal brings a "fresh perspective". Individual approaches influence the outcome of the search almost more than other factors. Even just discussing things can help sharpen new valuable insights and improve results. And the network is an excellent environment for such communication.

It's important to be critical of your queries. They can have common mistakes such as: incorrect spelling; terminological and semantic inaccuracies; errors in conditions like AND and OR, losses during combing (when you forget about an important network resource), evaluation mistakes, insufficient "regionalization" of the search, and so on. Don't consider your queries are perfect. There's always a chance that you genuinely forgot something :-)

*Estote parati!*





## • QUICK SEARCHING TIPS • <sup>6</sup>

### Preliminary Advices

Similar to long-term searches, the preparation stage becomes crucial and prioritized. It is necessary to understand **where** exactly you intend to search and **what specifically** you are looking for.

The online realm is full of fascinating content. Without self-discipline and a focused, attentive approach, your journey through the dark web-forest may demand disproportionately much effort and time. Therefore, I recommend a brief brainstorming session. Specify your goal and determine key words or ready-made queries. And then... I believe that if a seeker doesn't stumble upon a trail within 15 minutes (especially in short-term searches), it's possible that the initially chosen strategy is incorrect. In such a case, it's worth discarding the current plan and starting anew. You need to be an expert in various domains to correctly formulate queries successfully on any topic from the first attempt. Every searcher should possess two crucial skills: the ability to ask questions and understanding where to find the answers.

#### *Quaerite et invenietis*

Quick searching is like a "hyde and seek" game. It is played in a relatively confined space, and the seeker must close their eyes first and count to ten before diving into Google with a shout of "Ready or not, here I come!" :-)



As in long-term searches, determine **the type of content you are looking for** in short-term searches. Is it a dozen PDFs, the most important book on your topic, a concise article, research, or a biography? Images or a collection of them? A news post or an information compilation? A hunter knows that every game has its own habitat.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022014459/http://search.lores.eu/tips.htm#thinkabout>



Different skills are required for various content “habitats”: navigating forums, blogs, news sites, and file repositories all look different.

Just like in long-term searches, **use different resources** and **record/save successful results**. These are the most important tips. Don't overestimate your favorite search engines: each of them has its own tricks, and they form different "blind spots" due to different indexing databases. Also, pay attention to **regional search engines** for countries related to your query. [Note: sometimes they not only have a different index focused on regional results but also their own search engine] The depth you can reach for a specific query on, for example, a Korean search engine, may not be revealed through a simple Google search. Regional specificity is useful whenever you are stuck. It's also just fun. And it can help you find knowledgeable people and apply "combing" more successfully. At least **translate your query into other languages..**

The network is much like shifting sands, where no well-trodden path lasts long: search engine databases and even their algorithms are constantly changing. Over time, you will learn to sense the peculiarities and differences in the workings of search engines. [Note: also, the logic of search operators changes, so many examples from the original article are not provided here as they are outdated.]

### **Think about your query**

The internet is full of clutter, so searching with just one word rarely yields good results. Try to start with a phrase of several words rather than just one key term. This is so crucial that even zombies gradually understood it: as of 2009, queries of 2-3 words make up more than half of searches, and the use of only one word is slowly diminishing.

The words and terms in your query should **reflect the specificity** of the topic you are searching for. They should as unambiguously as possible indicate to the search engine the area of your current interest. Commonly used words, on the other hand, provide little help. Articles and prepositions are considered "stop words" and will be completely ignored unless forced into the query, more precisely, by a search operator.

Don't forget about search operators. They allow you to increase the relevance of the results or, conversely, exclude unnecessary information. Using quotation marks allows you not only to construct an exact query but also to include "stop words" in it. Individual widely used words can be turned into a narrowly specialized query with the + operator.

Just remember that operators have downsides too: for example, a query like "bot scripts" -javascript will exclude pages from your results, even if they contain the phrase "this function cannot be implemented in javascript". Be cautious with a large number of boolean operators (OR, AND). They are useful when searching with synonyms: "searching OR seeking". However, it's easy to get confused with nested queries. For instance, "searching OR (search AND 'find good results')" is not the same as "(searching AND search) OR find good results".

### **Keep on track!**

There's nothing easier than losing the thread when exploring the web. Take [my website](#) as an example. Many of the search query examples provided here lead to interesting places/starting points/search operations. These examples, along with links to other pages, constantly give you the opportunity to leave this site and explore other promising resources.

This is intentional and is one of the distinctive features of *Searchlores.com*. There is a "*hyperlink miserliness*" – an approach to building web pages where the number of external links is minimized. Even if material requiring a reference to the source is used on a page, attempts will be made to hide or make it inconspicuous. Everything is done to keep the visitor in the "cage" of this site. On the contrary, you are faced with the complete opposite. It's because **you have to learn discipline** if you want to become a good searcher. Have you left my site with the ends, captivated by the sought-after goal? Will you never come back here? The road is open. And this problem you will encounter on the web again and again. So, you've set a goal, aimed your sights, and now you find yourself in the forest of results that you don't actually need. Yes, it can be a very entertaining diversion, sometimes an acceptable pastime, but aimless wandering is clearly not in the interest of a searcher.

The network is a labyrinth where numerous exits lead away, and there are only a few entrances. Hence, the fundamental importance of a careful look and a stockpile of search words, clearly defined before venturing out.

*You are your own best friend and worst enemy*

## • THREE SEARCH TECHNIQUES •

*Adaptation of unfinished notes by Fravia, summarizing the intuitive experience of a searcher, as well as some experiments with search engines and their algorithms*

### Yo-Yo Technique <sup>7</sup>

Searchers well-acquainted with Google and others know that search engines use their users to sell advertising: paid positions come first in the results, SEO specialists optimize sites for "weight", and your personal data influences the outcomes... Nevertheless, there cannot be only commerce in the search results, as no one would use such services. The yo-yo technique (from the word "yonder" – distance) is aimed at finding valuable material.

1. Critically evaluate the results on the first page. If they look spammy, jump to the middle of the search results (page number equal to half of the total pages).

2. Evaluate the results there. If they do NOT look spammy, start using them and then move "up": to the previous page, i.e., your current number-1. While useful content is found there, continue exploring.

3. If the mid-page results turn out to be spammy, exit that zone as well. Jump to the middle of the second half: to the end, skipping 75% of the results. If they are good, use them and move "up" again.

4. If you encounter spam there as well, you can't rely on this search engine for this task. No big deal.

The number of pages does not correspond to the number of results. For the query "advanced searching", you can get only 999 results [at the time of writing, now reduced to 510] out of the tens of thousands known to Google [579,000 today, 26,000 at the time of writing]. This means that Google's "allowable zone" is only 3.82% [0.09%]. In contrast, the Lycos search engine provided access to 100% of its known results!

The larger the search engine's database, the more computational resources it needs to completely shuffle through it. However, the main goal is not to provide you with a free service but to sell something among the first pages. Hence, the search results are trimmed. To determine this, we conducted experiments with search engines, attempting to reverse-engineer their proprietary algorithms.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191201182852/http://search.lores.eu/yoyo1.htm#gene>

## The synecdochical searching method <sup>8</sup>

An old approach, familiar to many searchers, but still lacking a systematic description.

In rhetoric, a *synecdoche* can take two forms: genus-species or part-whole. In search, it can be understood as an "encompassing", high-level category directing the arrow of your initial query towards a more global concept – or conversely – as a "specific", more low-level, highly specialized term that allows you to identify more specific clusters of results.

After a discussion on a forum about haiku, I was looking for a book about them from the French editor Moundarren. This surname is a specific term. If you add it to the query "haiku", it immediately filters out spam sites that only use the most common concepts: "haiku", "Asian poetry", "Japanese poetry". Searching with this term led me to several sites linked only by the mention of Moundarren and the haiku theme. I call such a query a "slice": it cuts through commercial clutter and allows you to reach a useful or promising cluster of results. It may contain not only valuable information but also hints for future searches. Let's look at other examples. Horizontal queries are those "slices" that allow you to move along the same search plane (in our case, to learn more about the editor), while vertical ones let you explore other "planes" but still attempt to detect the signal emanating from the search goal in the unknown. In other words, the query "slices" through the array of available information, and in this slice, we find clusters of interest.

### 1. Horizontal "Regional" Slice.

Moundarren could have been published not only in France but also in the publishing houses of other countries – let's look for it there.

### 2. Horizontal "Thematical" Slice.

We are looking for a publishing house dealing with the theme of haiku. We can turn to the very first publisher (in this case, the international department of the Japanese Kodansha) and learn about numerous regional clusters through it!

### 3. Vertical "Thematical" Slice.

Identify other LESS KNOWN words on our topic that will yield clusters of results. For haiku, I will take the name of a poet or several at once. But how can you understand whether a word (term) is widespread or not? This is where most inexperienced searchers make mistakes. Deep knowledge of the topic related to your goal helps. Moreover, the more you search for something, pull that thread, the more chances you have to unearth arrows pointing straight through the noise to the desired *signal*.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022130717/http://search.lores.eu/synecdoc.htm>

However, experienced searchers can also improvise after a few minutes of surface-level searching on ANY topic.

#### **4. Vertical "Syntactical" Slice.**

In the French language used by our editor, the word "haiku" is written with a diaeresis: haïku. Therefore, if we search precisely in this spelling, we will remain in the French-speaking environment but move to a completely different cluster – on sites where this variant is used. The use of cool special characters, correct translation, and transliteration allows you to cut off a lot of unnecessary information. Or another example: searching for the author "Basho" can be done in any transliterations. Names on the internet, in general, carry a lot of meaning, and the buying and selling of domains, brand influence, and knowing specific or commonly used file or page names can help locate them without needing other keywords.

#### **5. Vertical "Metonymical" Slice.**

Search for related concepts. The first clusters you find can quickly lead you to new query – arrows related to deeper thematic terminology. For example: renga – collective haiku, kigo – haiku about the seasons.

#### **6. Vertical "Peristasical" Slice.**

*Peristasis* means describing through the surrounding object. One of the most productive search techniques is to input direct quotes from sources related to the topic. Alternatively, information outlining the context of what you are looking for.

As you can see, the synechdochic method is flexible, and its effectiveness cannot be measured. It is a kind of extension, moving where it becomes easier – if the task is to find something without deep knowledge of the subject. Or where it is more challenging: then it relies on gathering extensive knowledge about the goal and its networked habitats. The essence of the method is to search not directly for what you want to find but through the description of the sought-after. How else could this search be developed? "What is haiku", "How to compose haiku" (without quotes for flexibility), "history + haiku", Introduction to the art of haiku (again without quotes). ...And so on.

*Non refert quam multos sitos, sed quam bonos invenias*

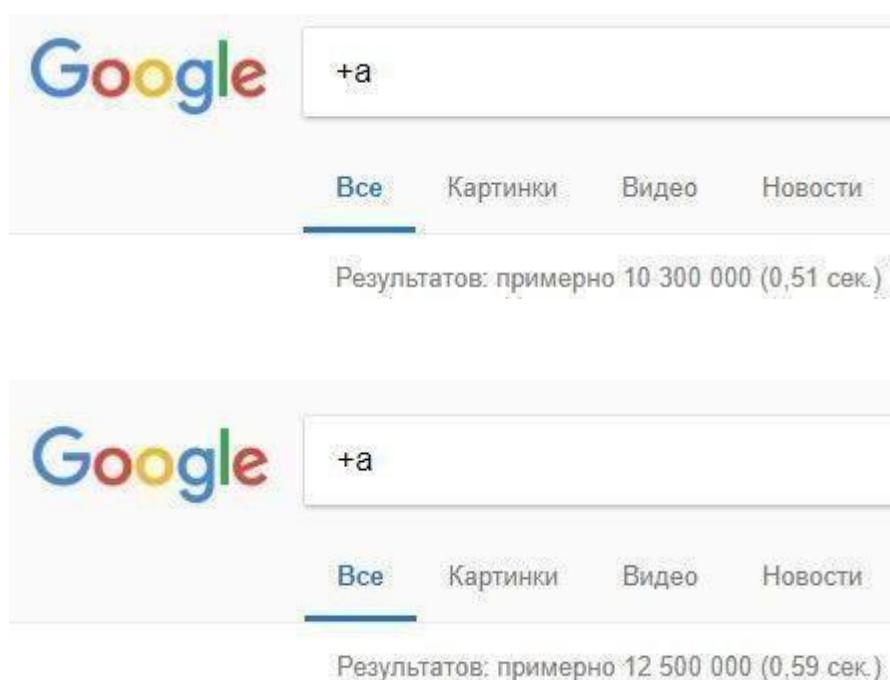
[It's not about how many websites, it's about how much valuable information was found]

## The epanaleptical approach <sup>9</sup>

The 'geminatio' or Epanalepsis is in rhetoric refers to the creation of an "echo", the repetition of a word or phrase. Here, I use this term to denote a technique related to using repetitions in a search query. Taking our previous example with Japanese poetry, a query for "*haiku*" in Google yields 378,000 sites, but "*haiku haiku*" results in 195,000 sites, a reduction of 48%! [as of 2001] You can increase the number of repetitions and experiment with the search results.

This approach allowed for the reduction of the number of found results (not to be confused with displayed results – earlier, we learned that not all results are displayed) on some search engines, depending on their algorithms. It also led to more interesting results on the very first pages. [Note: Nowadays, it tends to work the other way around]

When using this method, there were observed **surges** and **ebbs** in search engines: if the results array became very large, it could be truncated during peak user activity hours. In other words, it was noticeable that the number of pages found for the same query at different times would either increase or decrease. Does this still exist today? You can try searching for any letter of the alphabet at different hours and days to find out.



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<sup>9</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022130623/http://search.lores.eu/epanalep.htm#epan>

## Ep-what?

What are these strange terms that permeate the entire note? You may have already thought that simpler terms could have been used, such as "search with repetitions". However, there are reasons for this. Rhetoric terms describe complex concepts; they can lead you to think about different variations of using techniques and the selection of new analogies.

By the way, basic knowledge of rhetoric is essential for *reverse-engineering reality*, as will be discussed later.



## • GOLDEN RULES OF A SEEKER • <sup>10</sup>

*This material was presented by Fravia at the Canadian Recon conference in 2006.*

So, there are tips for long term search, for quick search, various techniques... In the end, each search expedition can be divided into such steps.

**Consider** your query. A well-formulated question is half the answer

**Find** what you're looking for based on your query. Try to imagine where your prey is likely to be found; don't reinvent the wheel and try to discover answers found by others before you by "combing" the network for nodes of original research; orient yourself to regional sections of the network wherever appropriate, as well as search resources operating on the same plan (geographic, temporal, academic, conceptual) as the habitat of your prey.

**Refine** your query during the search. Initially, your query will be either too broad or too narrow. Most often, it's the former. You can narrow it down by using operators, limiting it by time (e.g., only for 2005-2006), region (e.g., only .ru), or format (only .pdf files). In other words, you need to define criteria that the result must meet and then use corresponding search restrictions. In long-term search, these criteria often become clear during the process.

**Evaluate** the quality of your results. A very important and quite challenging stage. Regardless of your goal, you will undoubtedly find results of excellent quality, good results, decent results, and, finally, results that are not worth anything. This is not only related to omnipresent and network-penetrating commercial spam. The Internet allows anyone to publish anything they (or their left heel) fancy. More details are written in the evaluation guide.

**Collate** your results. After embarking on a long journey of exploration, gathering tons of results, diligently weeding out trash pages, and noting the most important or authoritative results... can you sleep peacefully? Not really. Most of the results will evaporate if you don't consolidate them into a cohesive and accurate interpretation, a kind of conclusion. Remember? It's important to systematically record your findings during the process. A classic mistake is to "forget" about it during a complex, multi-layered search. Take notes, create directories with meaningful names in advance to easily save what you need, and don't rely solely on memory. The result? All these bits and pieces, if neatly arranged, will quickly and easily turn into an organized, unified outcome.

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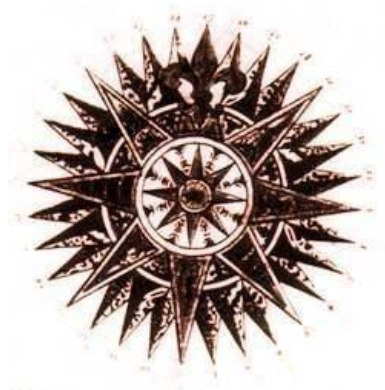
<sup>10</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/20191021170050/http://search.lores.eu/effective\\_searching.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20191021170050/http://search.lores.eu/effective_searching.htm)



And a final note in this article – about what **surrounds** us.

Always try to stay in silence and relaxation when searching and analyzing, and let this be disrupted as rarely as possible. No calls, Skype chats, emails, television, or annoying music. Listening to music during the search is generally a bad idea. A calm and soothing atmosphere allows you to optimally apply your efforts. Calmness creates happy accidents. In short: seekers can take medieval monks as their role models, who in peaceful cells sought old, forgotten knowledge, while barbarians and zombies outside the monastery walls burned everything at hand and tormented each other...

...Indeed, this is what happens in a commercially cluttered network and in our commercially cluttered real life.



## • EVALUATING INFORMATION QUALITY •

From the basic part of the materials on the art of searching, you may have understood how important it is to apply (and, in general, develop) a systematic approach to handling tools. It is necessary to envision what it will allow you to obtain even before the start of the search. However, it is even more important to develop and apply a systematic approach to the results themselves: being able to evaluate the multitude of documents, keywords, and conclusions acquired by you through (well-honed, I hope) search queries.



## • SEVEN QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE • <sup>11</sup>

Do you see the correlation between the weak *signal* you catch in the depths of the network and the massive broadcast *noise* around it? It forces you to learn to filter results, to "tame" them. And you have to do it quickly and competently, even when the subjects and areas of knowledge you are looking for are unfamiliar to you.

Fortunately, there are several auxiliary rules – a set of questions that should be answered to check the quality of the found material. These seven classic questions sound like *quis, quid, ubi, quibus auxiliis, cur, quomodo, quando* – that is, Who, What, Where, With what means, Why, How, and When. You can also use them to create queries when you decide exactly what you need. And, first of all, you can ask yourself why you needed to search for something :–)

So, the quality check of information involves answering all these classic questions. Let's go:

**WHO** is the author of the material? As a result, having his biography on hand, what exactly gives him the right to write about the issue [or create a video, projecting onto today's realities].

**WHAT** exactly did you find? It could be a comprehensive explanation, a proven concept, a brief comment, or just a hypothetical exposition... it's important to understand exactly what.

**WHERE** did the result come from? Look at the URL, what kind of site is it? Does anyone refer to it?

**BY WHAT MEANS** did the information come to light. Check who owns the server where the material is hosted. Look at who or what the author refers to; are there any references?

**FOR WHAT** purpose was this material created and posted on the Internet.

**HOW** was the material created? Was it the result of years of research, or a hastily assembled piece in half a day?

**WHEN** was this information created, published, updated? Also, when was the hosting resource created? web.archive.org can help with this. Search engines also allow you to display results for a specific past date. Some sites intentionally hide the staleness of their materials.

These are the main questions that will allow you to move forward on the path of verification.

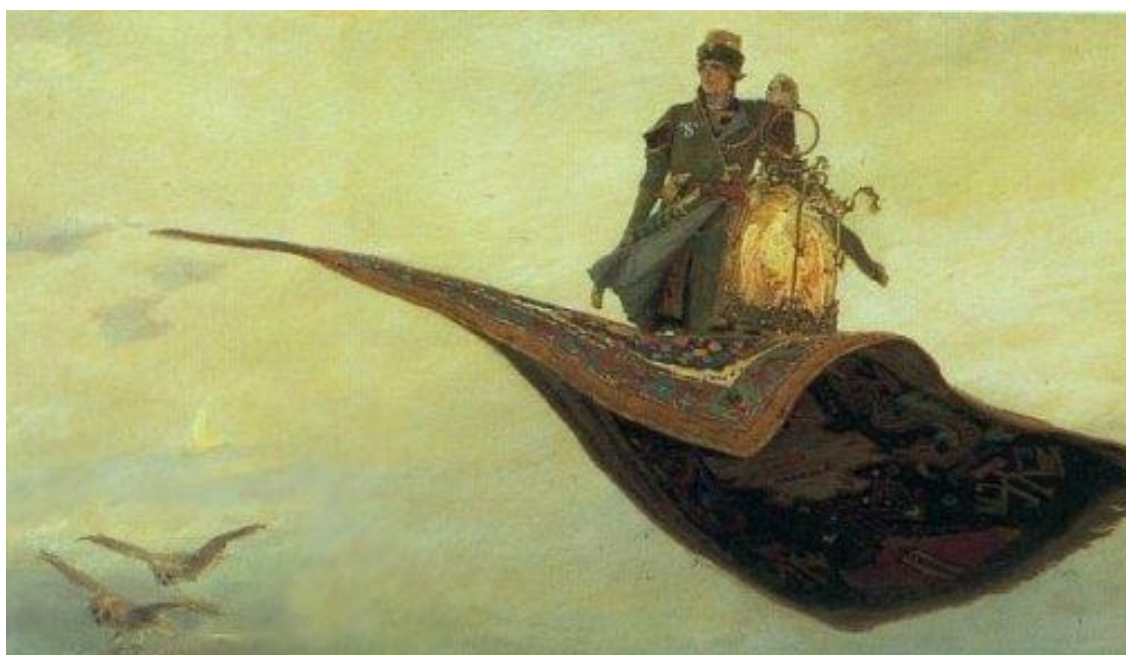
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<sup>11</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191222190541/http://search.lores.eu/london/lea2tra.htm#the%20questions>

Common tips on checking the quality of information on the internet should be taken with a grain of skepticism. There is often a tendency to ignore the "grey" areas of the network. Some believe that PDF files are automatically more valuable than HTML pages, regardless of the material presented. That is fundamentally wrong! The value of a text can only be assessed based on its actual significance. Many template recommendations found online scattered across the web but only pay lip service to the academic corner of the web. Worse yet, many such fact-checkers are unable to evaluate content based on anything more than formal aspects.

This is a problem: many valuable trade secrets, including advanced technological issues, are discussed and developed within close-knit circles of geeks scattered around the world. They may not always have a command of English sufficient to satisfy formalists, and in any case, they won't always speak it purely (and politically correctly).

Due to historical and cultural reasons, Eastern European resources are still less commercially oriented than the "Euro-American" chunk of the network. Therefore, it is easier to find unbiased reviews or comparisons of books, programs, or arbitrary search goals that are not paid for.



## • PROFESSOR SIELAFF'S LESSONS • <sup>12</sup>

We sat there waiting and *ziemlich gespannt*, January, quite cold in Berlin, but, after all, that was the reason we were there: Sielaff was still teaching, against all political odds.

And he came, with his classical quarter of an hour "academic delay"... He came "herein" leaning on one side, because he carried at least a dozen books under his left arm, and then he sat down, without even looking at us, and let all his books fall on the teacher's desk.

Mind you, this was the most cherished post-university course for historians of the early middle ages in Europe in those days, so you can imagine how silent and attentive we all (students from all over Europe) were...

He still did not look at us. "These books" – he began – "deal all, more or less, with the same subject: a history of Danemark in the middle ages. Now please try to supersede the subject: actually the subject could be completely different, it would not matter in the least per se: the point is that you should bei Gelegenheit learn how to **evaluate** all kind of books **before** buying and/or reading them (to do it **afterwards** is not easy either, by the way, but at least **that kind** of evaluation requires more obvious skills)".

Sielaff looked sharply at his audience. "I imagine" – he said – "that you already know that most of the books... and data... around us are next to useless, don't you?" I don't know about the others, but this took me by surprise: I had always thought, naïvely enough, that anything that was published must have had some sort of "value".

"This book..." – Sielaff began, taking the first book out of his pile – "...is titled, quite appropriately for our today example: '*History of Danemark in the Middle ages*'..." – he paused and looked at us – "...unfortunately, the Author, as stated by himself in the introduction, does not know danish at all, therefore..." – he suddently threw the book on a far corner of the teaching desk in disgust.

**You cannot write about something which is language-related if you do not know that language.**

"This book, on the other hand..." – he continued, picking another book from his pile – "... which is titled 'Danemark between 500 and 1200' has been written by an Author that actually does happen to know danish... unfortunately (for him, on the other side quite fortunately for those among us that want to appreciate books like this on the fly) the same Author wrote – before this book – a book titled 'Cactusses and other desert's plants' and, should that not be enough for you, he wrote – a short time after having published the book I am holding right now in my hand – another book titled 'Aquarium techniques for home and profit'.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022014443/http://search.lores.eu/evaluate.htm>

The book flew flapping on the far corner on the desk, where it hit the previous one.

The book, after being flipped through, flew to the far corner of the table, where it collided with the previous one.

**You cannot write about unrelated things and pretend you really know something about anyone of them.**

"I am sure you begin to understand, now..." – he said – "...but let's continue, because there is **much** more to understand and reverse... here is another book: '*Danemark in the middle ages*' – and he fished a third book from his pile – "that has been written by someone that definitely knows danish, that only worked on danish history of the middle ages, and that happens to be a recognized authority in such matters" – he paused and then throw the book disgusted on the "crap" side of his desk – "I know you won't like what I will now say" – he added – "but it is quite important nevertheless: the Author wrote this book when he was only **thirty** years old!" – in fact we were all still approaching thirty ourselves and therefore more or less speechless – "I fear you'll probably don't dig it right now, but believe me: if you want to be really sure someone knows anything about what he's writing about – especially in complex sciences like early medieval history –, you wait until he is **at least** fifty years old, and even in that case you should by all means take **great** care: most of the so-called "experts" are oft enough just releasing hot air bubbles. This has nothing to do with danish history specifically, of course... it happens anywhere, anyhow, anywhere..."

**You cannot trust anyone that did not spend a relevant amount of time on a single and specific theme.**

"You see..." – continued Sielaff – "...the fact that the previous author worked a lot on a single subject may be relevant for the books he wrote / will have written **at the end** of his career. But this does not guarantee nothing at all about the books he may have written at the beginning. And now we come to this article: '*About mediaeval danmark*' which was written by an expert on danish medieval history, who was fifty himself at the time of writing. The article appeared in november 1982 on a university monthly collection..." – silence followed, we were trying to guess – "...ahem, I repeat: it appeared **in november** on a monthly..." – more silence: we didn't know what to say – "...ok: if you don't know it yet, then you better learn it right now: monthly publications are tricky – especially university ones.

They actually **have** to publish their 12 issues year after year in order to survive... and get public money for the following years... yet the quality varies considerably, and though it may be relatively easy to find some sound and interesting material for the first, say, five or six months, you'll have to scratch the bottom of the 'Topf' to be able to fill and publish all 12 issues... therefore, my dear students, everything published 'from september onwards' should be regarded with suspect... mind you: it does not **mean** that the stuff is crap, it is only **less probable** that you'll have some outstanding work there".

**You should always take into account the economic ratios behind any publishing effort.** *You should always take into account economic ratios behind anything, btw...*

"And now we are approaching the real 'kern' of today's session" – Sielaff yawned – "Here you have another book: *History of Danemark through the middle ages*" – He raised a hand holding a thick book from his pile. – "This was written by a recognized expert of danish history, towards the end of his life, building on many essays he wrote before on the same argument. It was published by the most important danish editor, translated in German, English and French".

– A small pause – "It has no footnotes, only endnotes".

Sielaff coughed, smiling sadly. – "This basically means that you should 'believe' the historical reconstruction of the Author, instead of having the possibility – and the ease – to confute 'at every step' his writings".

"So even the 'formatting' of your target resource is important as well, and please note that – most of the time – said formatting will **not** be casual".

He threw the book away in disgust.

**Form matters almost as much as substance, moreover you should always consider how 'open to questioning' your targets present themselves.**

*Some Authors only refer to secondary sources, if ever. Others will bend backwards to avoid giving readers direct access to a primary source that could be interpreted differently.*

"Today's 'proseminar' is almost finished.

"Guess you may enjoy this book" – Sielaff held in his hands the last book of the pile.



"Titled 'A short history of Danemark in the middle ages' this book was written by a recognized expert of the matter, 60 years old at the time of writing, has footnotes, uses correctly the sources... as far as I can judge... seems 'in ordnung', has all the characteristics of a sound book..." – Sielaff opened the book and sniffed among the pages. – "It even smells good".

Sielaff's head jerked back. – "Yet you should **not** trust its assertions, not in the least: Check the sources yourselves, confute the 'truths' and the 'discoveries' of this Author... think at the possible alternative interpretations..." – Sielaff hands waved in the air. – "It's only **words**! Never forget it: books, knowledge... just a cobweb of words, behind them, often enough: nothing.

A cobweb of theories, that's "science". It's up to you to dispel it.

Sielaff's eyes pierced the audience. – "A critical mind, that's your only weapon inside the dark forests of bogus knowledge you will have to cross again and again, your critical mind... never ever allow it to get dull".

Sielaff put the book down, closed it gently, and left.

**Never ever trust your sources only because they kinda "appear" trustworthy.**

*A critical mind, that's your only weapon inside the forests of bogus knowledge, never ever allow it to get dull.*





## • REVERSING REALITY • <sup>13</sup>

*Based on the essay and discussions compiled both by Fravia and the community of seekers gathered around him. <sup>14</sup>*

How to see a bit of light through the smoke? Let us be amateurs, but I consider this section one of the most important on my website... Reversing reality is what you don't need to spend hours on the computer for, as in the case of reverse engineering programs. This skill can be honed in everyday life at any time. Otherwise, you will be used, and you won't even realize it. Moreover, reaching a disguised message is the most pleasant feeling.

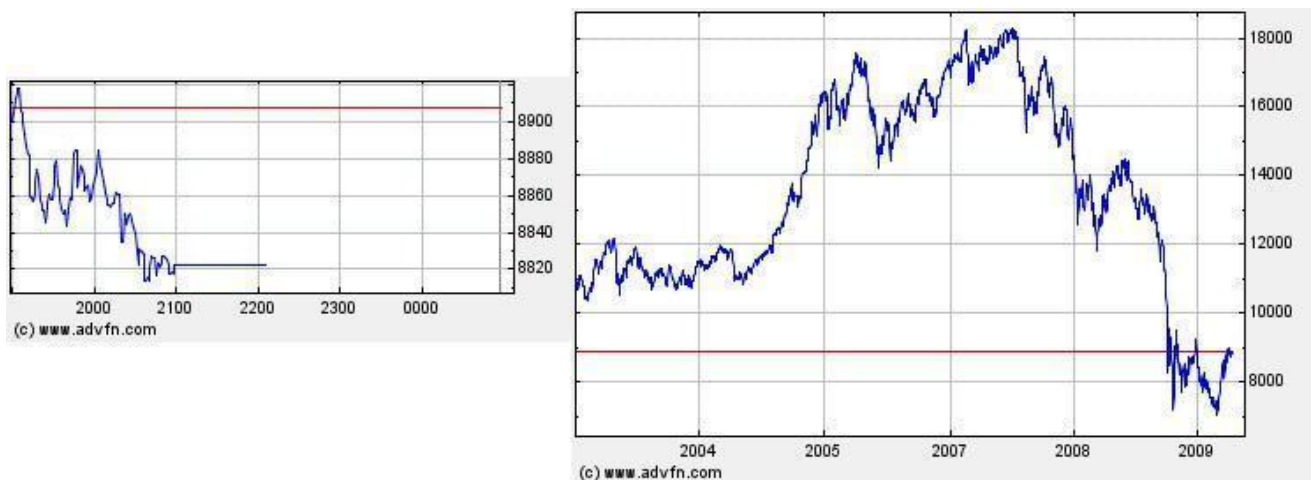
When we reverse programs, we search them, discover new protection schemes, and apply skills and intuition to bypass them. The same thinking mechanism can be applied outside the digital space. In our everyday lives.

It all started with a powerful essay by a reverser +ORC, 'Supermarket enslavement techniques' <sup>15</sup>. But we can apply our insight far beyond that.

### **The Deception of Statistics and the Phantom of Probability**

We replace the study of statistics and probability theory with an "empirical understanding" of how they work. And we make mistakes. A striking example is the Monty Hall paradox. It is precisely a weak understanding of probability that leads people to play lotteries and casinos. So-called "winning strategies" do not "reverse" the mechanisms of probability but rather play on their empirical understanding – which is often incorrect.

Statistics may seem like a reflection of real facts, but it can be collected using incorrect methods or presented in such a way that it is impossible to truly understand it. For example, as in these illustrations.



<sup>13</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191231130101/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/realicra.htm#pointy>

<sup>14</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191113192046/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/reality1.htm>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.neperos.com/article/pvrua0ca1ecd9440>

On the left, we see a significant drop in a parameter (the yen exchange rate). However, if we look at a larger chart – not for hours, but for years – we will see that this spike is nothing special.

Other types of errors or deception include the non-representativeness of the sample, meaning its mismatch with the situation under investigation; cherry-picking, where inconvenient results are simply excluded; manipulation of the selected parameter for evaluation and the dismissal of other parameters. A significant portion of the statistics used in the media sphere is correlational, not experimental. It shows unproven dependencies rather than causal relationships.

These tactics are employed in fields ranging from advertising to politics.

### **Perception of the Media Sphere**

Belief in news is one of the paradigms shaping the worldview of the modern individual. What is said on television [or any other media channel] is perceived as true by default. Now, let's take a behind-the-scenes look and reverse the process of news creation. Reporters, whether knowingly or unknowingly, cover only certain topics. If they can choose these topics themselves, they base their choices on their own views and preferences. These views are influenced by the news they have absorbed before. Adding to this the fact that people cannot be completely objective and usually view everything from their own perspective, we realize that news reports are just a subset of what actually exists. Furthermore, media professionals can intentionally distort the interpretation of facts. Editors select unflattering photos of some individuals and attractive ones of others, sometimes completely removing them from context. Words and images are carefully chosen. Many journalists are not aware that they cease to be bearers of truth because they act in accordance with the paradigm. Others succumb to peer pressure. In the end, they reinforce the existing paradigm, creating a self-perpetuating cycle.

Scientific publications are not without the problem of objectivity either. Much of what we know about the foundations of the universe is theoretical. However, scientists sometimes become so attached to their model that they fail to see anything beyond its limits. Enthusiasts of science may think that humanity is already capable of describing absolutely everything. But so far, the body of scientific knowledge forms just another paradigm of reality. There was a different one before; it seemed entirely correct, and a physicist from some past era, upon learning about the structure of our computers, would have deemed these machines non-functional. Yet, they exist and work.

In a general sense, *reversing reality* is a way to break free from one's current paradigm by understanding the principles through which it defends itself against this.

## Perception of Reality Overall

We all live our days in our own little sense of reality. We are surrounded by matter. And matter consists of atoms. Atoms and electrons – between these tiny compressed bundles of energy lies empty space. "But how can that be?" you might ask. "Here's a table, it's solid, I can see it". No, you perceive it as such. In reality, our brain receives electromagnetic impulses, the eye detects frequencies of light, not even all of them. And interprets them as "solid", "red", or other colors and textures. Once, while learning the widely accepted paradigm, we memorized what they are called, and our brain can distinguish them within the narrow range accessible to our receptors. Do we live in a three-dimensional world? They say the fourth dimension – time – is just a human societal invention. However, biological clocks, not needing hands or numbers, exist in every living organism. So, one can assume the existence of the fifth and sixth dimensions, which we simply do not notice – mathematically, they are possible.

In this wonderfully diverse reality, we live. When you read a book, hack through defenses, embrace a loved one – you are interacting with reality as it appears to you. Each of us has our own unique prism of perception. Therefore, open your eyes wider – no one, except for you, will appreciate it as much as you do.



## • PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF REVERSING REALITY •

The majority of the content posted on the website about reversing reality focuses on the "art" of advertising and our consumer habits. Why? Because they define a significant portion of the reality we live in.

Let's attempt to improve our lives without following paths chosen for us by someone else. It's already evident today that scantily clad models boost car sales. But what's not as obvious is why yogurts or fruit-flavored drinks increasingly contain not just one type of fruit but a mix of remnants with a loud label like "Tropical Mix" or "Forest Berry". Like many trade tricks, this allows for maximizing profits by creating the illusion of choice. The same applies to fashion and trends.

### Text <sup>16</sup>

The web is text. The Internet was created primarily for storing and transmitting texts. Email, Usenet, web programming... a galaxy of messages without order, with questionable authorship, and with lost or incorrect source links. You are reading an article on the "University of Southern Malawi" website, but is it a real university with significant publications, or was the entire article written and posted online by a student for a prank? It's no wonder that the internet is rife with "urban legends". Even getting "paternity confirmation" for a webpage is a nightmare. Therefore, we need means and tools to understand the real significance of the texts we encounter, to pick out tiny nuggets of knowledge from a pile of deceit. In today's zombified world, these tools are almost non-existent. But we, as seekers, are capable of finding them. Text "cracking" was practiced by rhetoric experts like sophists; this art continued in the masters of exegesis and in the study of historical sources (Quellenkunde) in 19th-century German scientific thought. Professors of that era could read in Latin, Greek, and often Sanskrit. The "reversing scene" was destroyed by the First and Second World Wars.

Here's what reversing looks like with an understanding of rhetoric and, to some extent, history:

- The "Ministry of Defense" was commonly referred to as the "Ministry of War" several centuries ago, which is much more truthful. And in some places, it is now called the "Ministry of Peace"!

- The name of the military operation "Desert Storm" (the campaign against Saddam) gives a sense of detachment, as if the residents of Iraq did not participate (and did not die) in the combat actions.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191022114255/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/exegesis.htm>

•"Flexible Workforce" – Read: the prospect of an unregulated workload with multiple responsibilities at once.

•Employer: The original term has changed in many European languages. The initially benign-sounding "work provider" (e.g., Arbeitgeber in modern German) was simply called: owner, master, landlord (German: Herren). In German, workers from Arbeiter became Arbeitnehmer, meaning "work receivers". In English, it's not "worker" but "employee".

•Intellectual Property: This is well explained in the [GNU](#).

Generalizations, demonstrative confidence, and emotional pressure are used to impose the desired decision on a person. They create the feeling that the author fully understands the issue, and we surrender to them. Remember this effect and "hack" it! If you see phrases in the text like "It's always better to choose X", "It will be wonderful if you do X", "All people are X" – immediately cast doubt on these loud words.

Or take a more subtle example: the advertisement for Marlboro from a French magazine in October 1998. The slogan was: "L'hiver est proche, nos points de vente aussi" – "Winter is near, our points of sale too". In the autumn issue, it looks relevant, becoming an "anchor" to the reader's reality. Moreover, a rhetorical figure called "zeugma" is used here in French. Grammatically, the phrase is incorrect, deliberately done to merge "winter" and points of sale, uniting them under a common attribute: inevitability and reliability. Another phrase nearby is given in English: "Fits the man" – using a global language instead of a local one, plus the article "the", all of this gives a sense of the product's universal value.

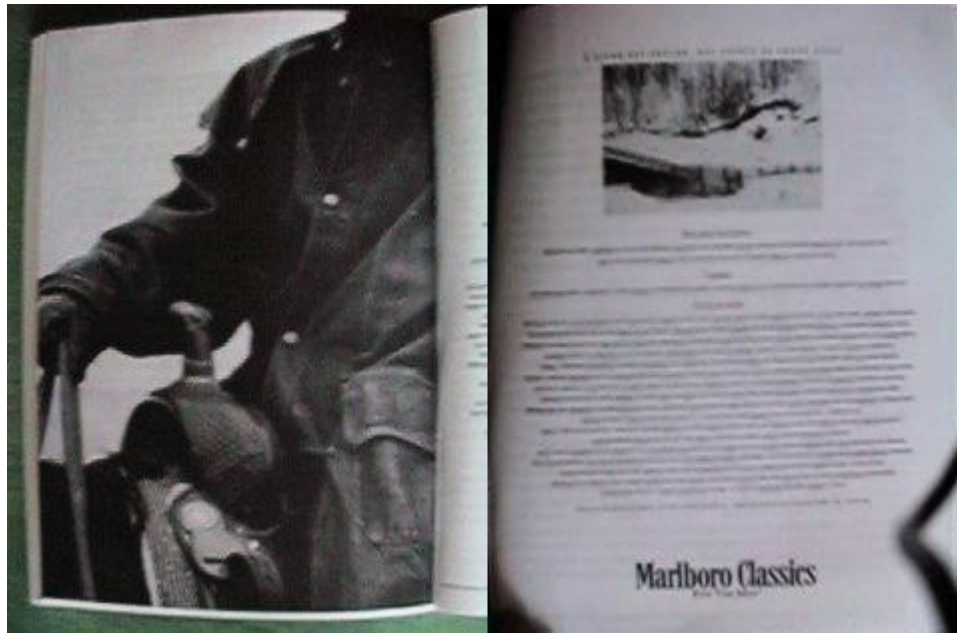
## Visual Message <sup>17</sup>

Composition, processing, details in images create the desired impression, which we may not notice. This is achieved through the placement of elements in the advertising picture, their content, color palette, and even framing (or its absence). Let's go back to the same magazine with Marlboro.

Here, the axial principle of composition is used: the most prominent detail, a part of the saddle, is on the same axis as the product name on the adjacent page. This also corresponds to the typical reading direction: from left to right, top to bottom. The chosen theme of snow is associated with coldness and nobility. The delicate outlines of the font on the right enhance the feeling of white snowy coziness. This is balanced by the brownish tones of the clothing.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191031023357/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/marlbo2.htm>



In the photo on the left, we see only a part of the human figure; the rest extends beyond the page – yet not beyond the frame, as a frame would create a sense of limitation. At the same time, we see a person from a perspective as if we were standing on the ground, and they are firmly holding the reins above us. They appear stronger and more majestic than the viewer. Diffused lighting in both photos adds a sense of timelessness, blurring the feeling of reality.

Visual images can also use rhetorical principles for a stronger impact: a large and powerful image on the left next to a light and miniature shot on the right creates an oxymoron – a combination where opposites enrich each other. The importance of knowing rhetoric for reverse engineering everything around us was emphasized by the old master of the hacker scene, +ORC.

Combining all these techniques conveys to the viewer unconscious meanings, creating a need for a product that may not have been necessary or even elicited aversion before.

Characteristics of our visual perception are actively utilized in supermarkets when placing products and in the layout of pages full of advertisements. The latter is directly related to the skillful use of the internet. By using ad-block, we free the brain from the need to process and filter out junk information, which releases mental resources for processing the main content and reduces fatigue. A page cleared of everything unnecessary is like a Zen painting: all attention is given to the main thing.



## **Social Mechanisms**

Our subconscious actively processes the body language of our conversation partner. If we see that the words and facial expressions of the interlocutor do not match, we are more likely to interpret the body signal as true and the words as lies. There are techniques of "hypnotic" marketing used both in business and fraud. For self-protection, it is important to be aware of them and be cautious when someone tries to evoke an emotional response in a questionable conversation.

## **In conclusion**

Knowing our limitations and biases, questioning the source of our motives, being able to "hack" figures of speech and rhetorical techniques, evaluating sources, and not letting our quiver of requests-arrows run empty. In an era where ancient arts of handling text and speech are forgotten, all of this allows the seeker to find light in dense fog.

## • HACKING MILITARY PROPAGANDA • <sup>18</sup>

*A significant portion of this text was written literally a couple of days before the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq, using the propaganda surrounding it as an example to analyze techniques.*

Our investigative skills and the ability to see through the patterns of propaganda can serve to demonstrate whose hands are pulling the strings and for what purpose, and exactly how. Many puppets are affected by this, and they often meet unfortunate fates on both sides of the conflict.

### 1. "We" Don't Want War!

Propagandists and their masters can constantly and persistently repeat that they do not want war. Honestly! People really dislike war, and the old Latin saying "si vis pacem para bellum" is used to reassure propaganda victims: all preparations for conflict are merely steps to avoid it. Well, we don't want war, unless someone forces us into it, but only for SELF-DEFENSE, and nothing more!

- "We stand for peace, we do not want war",... (General Musharraf, Dictator of Pakistan) ...said at a dinner in the presidential palace. "We will never initiate a war unless it is thrust . . . upon us".

- Given the choice, we do not want war, but if it is imposed on us, we will fight," Saddam said on Iraqi state television.

- At a news conference last week, Blair said he was eager to avoid war in Iraq and determined to work through the United Nations. "Let me make one thing plain," he said. "We do not want war. No one wants war".

- "We do not want war with France! We do not want anything from France! Nothing at all!" (Adolf Hitler, 27 September 1938)

### 2. "We" want Peace, "the Enemy" wants War!

The 'enemy' is always the aggressor, many times a 'madman', and often a 'tyrant', a 'dictator', a 'devil', capable of all most infame actions. He has no heart, no brain, no logic. He does never respect treaties, he is – per definition – a traitor. Note also that treaties are always 'holy and sacred' for those that would like them to be respected, and just 'scrap paper' or 'obsolete' or 'no more actual' for those that want to ignore, break, violate them.

### 3. The enemy is the devil in disguise!

The demonisation is often also accompanied by a 'leader personification' of the enemies, due to the fact that you cannot seriously hate a whole 'population' without being as ridiculous (and dangerous) as the nazi with the

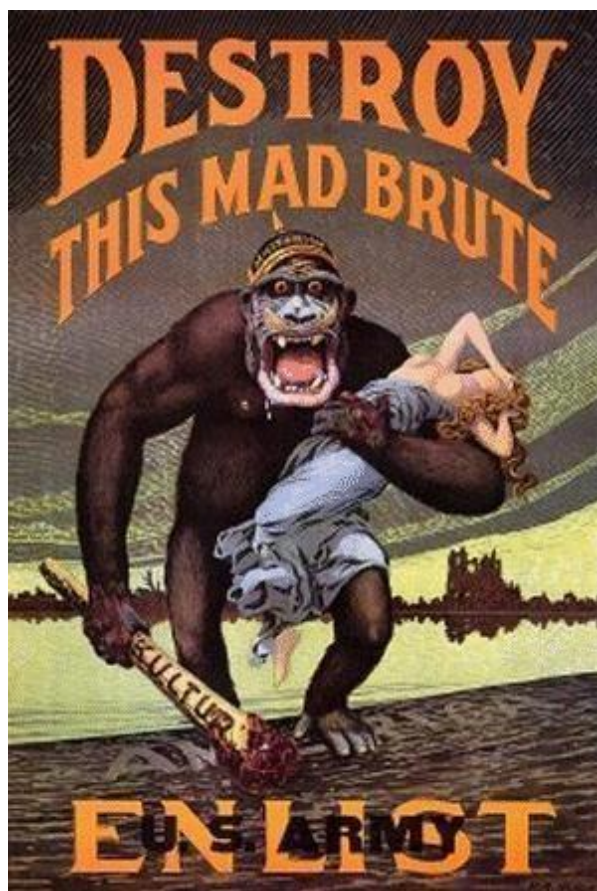
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<sup>18</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191113143842/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/propawar.htm>



jews, it is not 'bon ton' any more to hate a whole race in these 'politically correct times... so you have to concentrate your propaganda name-calling on the leader(s) of "our" supposed 'enemies'.

In some cases, the reverse is applied: an entire nation is demonized due to the choice of an unworthy leader.



#### **4. We defend a noble (and/or holy) cause!**

Freedom, democracy, the progress of humanity, the liberation of peoples. No political interests involved. In the case of the Iraq war, precisely these arguments were used, not the complication of oil relations with Saudi Arabia.

#### **5. "The enemy" commits atrocities, "we" may experience some glitches**

Our army – paladins, professionals gallantly defending the civilian population. It strives, as much as possible, to avoid 'collateral damage.' At the same time, similar damage from the enemy is called unprecedented brutality. If the enemy refuses to commit atrocities, we can just make something up!

#### **6. Euphemism galore!**

Have you understood how this works? We don't "bomb" – we "conduct targeted strikes", sometimes with "surgical precision". We don't "kill civilian populations" – we "couldn't avoid collateral damage". We don't "capture" Iraq –

our "peacekeeping forces" must "enter" Iraq and carry out... not war, but the "liberation of Iraq". Objectives are not shot, they are removed. And soldiers will subsequently experience not "combat stress", as mentioning combat needs to be avoided, but "post-traumatic stress disorder". In Iraq, there is a different rhetoric style: it's acceptable to say, "we blew off the rotten heads of our enemies".

## **7. Enemies utilise evil, "unauthorized" weapons!**

We always adhere to the code of honor, while our enemies, on the other hand, are prone to betraying all agreements. The use of prohibited weapons by the "righteous" side often comes to light long after the end of the war.

## **8. "We" do not have (almost) any missing soldiers while "the enemy" suffers incredible (sic) losses**

The EIGHT common denominator is based on the fact that most humans want to be on the winning side. Our losses are hidden, enemys' losses are exaggerated.

## **9. Everybody agrees with "us", duh!**

Namely, television presenters, celebrities, journalists, and representatives of the intellectual elite. An opposing opinion? Perhaps it exists, but it shouldn't be taken seriously. In the end, even our adversaries will agree with us!

- British Prime Minister Tony Blair, on 6 February (Jeremy Paxman's Newsnight): "If we do have to come to military action in Iraq and remove Saddam, then I honestly believe the people who will rejoice first will be the Iraqis because they have been the victims of Saddam".

- "I believe Saddam Hussein is very weak. I don't believe there is an Iraqi soldier that is ready to die for Saddam Hussein". [republican senator John McCain, Autumn 2002]

## **10. Anyone doubting "our" propaganda is just a backstabbing traitor**

The TENTH common denominator is based on the fact that you need to neutralize anyone who would not agree with your propaganda.

## **Some general war–reversing rules <sup>19</sup>**

### **1. The "reinforcement" rule:**

Every time reinforcements are called for, used, proposed, sent, the situation for the part using/needing reinforcement is "in the reality" deteriorating. Note that this is always true for both parts.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191113143842/http://search.lores.eu/realicra/propawar.htm#rulez>

## 2. The "internecine fighting" rule:

Everytime, shortly before an assault, our side spreads news of 'civil war', "army commanders' dissence" and/or 'internecine fighting' or "popular unrest" among the forces of the enemy camp, it means that a very bloody battle has already been envisaged by our side, and that we want to be able to showel part of the responsability of the future civilian casualties on "our" enemy.

## 3. The "kids have been taken as hostage" rule:

Everytime you want to explain that annoying 'stubborn' and 'suicidal' resistance to our advances, the reason must be found in some kind of evil enemy's blackmail, "they menaced to kill their families if they do not fight against us".

It is simply not possible that somebody would fight for his country against "our" holy mission without being "immorally blackmailed" or "brain washed".

## 4. The "technical glitches" rule:

Everytime the number of "technical glitches", "silly incidents" or "friendly fire casualties" among "our" forces increases abnormally during a given time slice, "we" have in the reality encountered serious resistance (which would be impossible to account for according to our own propaganda).

## 5. The "Geneva conventions violation" rule:

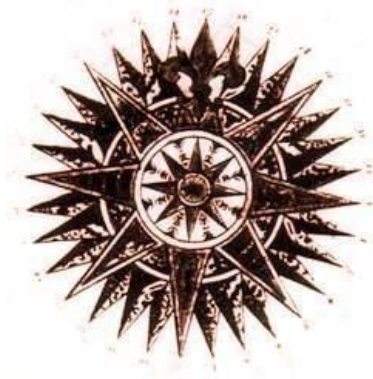
Everytime the enemy "violates the Geneva conventions", (of course such as "we do interpret them", being the Geneva conventions masterpieces of duplicity and vagueness) our holy side is "almost" justified (if not actually allowed) to do the same or worse. Note that this is always true **for both parts**.

## 6. The "if they move they still exist" rule:

The fact that the enemy performs "maneuvers" (or even attacks) and causes "limited damage" or "momentary bogging" to our ever advancing (or courageously defending) forces means that the enemy is still able to go on the offensive despite our announced successes. Note that this is always true **for both parts**.

## 7. The "stale news" rule:

If a whole day passes without any "news" of our "victories", and if the most recent "victorious" news are just repeated (with slight variations) "we" can be sure that "our" forces have encountered some reverses.



## • STEGANOGRAPHY • <sup>20</sup>

The society we live in recalls more and more "Fahrenheit 451", Ray Bradbury's classic, frightening vision of a future where firemen don't put out fires – they start them in order to burn books. A society that holds up the appearance of happiness and success as the highest goal – a place where trivial information and commercial crap is good, and real knowledge and independent ideas are bad. Hence the need to defend ourselves. Seekers must have the means to communicate without the clowns at Echelon snooping their messages.

Echelon is a snooping project paid by the United States' National Security Agency (NSA) that includes stations run by Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in addition to those operated by the United States: a block of anglophones elites helping each other against the rest of the world and their own citizens, as it seems...

As the (dutch) authors of contraband wrote: "Steganography tools are the NSA's worst nightmare, if you're smart you'll understand why..." It is therefore a pleasure for me, in these times of warmongerish madness, to (try to) teach everyone in sight how to "deceive the deceivers". The more people will learn these tricks, and the more those clowns will have to work to snoop our private data, the better.

Steganography is the art (and science) of communicating hiding **the existence** of communication, in contrast with cryptography. Ideally, your enemies, or those you are fighting against, or even your friends, should not even imagine that there IS a message concealed somewhere.

This very characteristic makes steganography the **ideal** science for hiding messages on the web, which is flooded by noise: non-significant data. Your whole passwords and everything you need can without any problem be hidden inside three or four 'fake' pages you'll have uploaded somewhere, with images like 'my sister Sally and her favourite banana fishes' or whatever.

You will download all fake images from the web (web homepages are a never ending source of incredibly dull lives and photographs :-), you will **modify** them (the greatest risk for steganography is the confrontation between the 'original' image, without concealed message, and the 'steganated' image which contains a message, of course), and only after these modifications you will hide your concealed message inside them with one of the many programs ad hoc.

Basically, using steganography, you can smuggle ("embed") any file, or set of files inside a format ("cover" or "container") which leaves the smuggled data untraceable and unreadable ("stego": the final data containing both the

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<sup>20</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20191218091437/http://search.lores.eu/stego.htm>

cover noise and the embedded signal).

Be warned: you cannot trust all stego programs on the web, and you should definitely **never** trust any software you do not possess (or re-construct) the source code of. There is a rule: if a program related to cybersecurity does not come with precise explanations of its working principles, it should not be trusted for serious tasks. Additionally, you have a chance to delve into the intricacies of steganography. Perhaps then, hundreds of small steganography utilities will start flourishing, each with its slightly different algorithm. The minions from Echelon will surely be "grateful" to you :—)

### **Cover: Music files**

MP3Stego will hide information in MP3 files during the compression process. The data is first compressed, encrypted and then data hidden in the MP3 bit stream. Although MP3Stego has been written with steganographic applications in mind it might be used as a watermarking system for MP3 files.

<http://www.petitcolas.net/steganography/mp3stego/>

### **Cover: Executable and other files**

Messages can be embedded in applications. The program Hydan (from Old English "to hide, to conceal") records information by transforming it into machine code. Fragments of program instructions are replaced with functionally equivalent ones containing the encrypted message. This ensures that the file size remains unchanged. The embedded message is encrypted using Blowfish with the user's password.

<http://www.crazyboy.com/hydan/>

### **Other formats**

WbStego4open embeds messages in BMP images, text files, HTML, and PDF documents.

<http://wbstego.wbailer.com>

### **Whitespace steganography**

The program snow is used to conceal messages in ASCII text by appending whitespace to the end of lines. Because spaces and tabs are generally not visible in text viewers, the message is effectively hidden from casual observers. And if the built-in encryption is used, the message cannot be read even if it is detected.



## • NOTES ON THE SEEKING •

*Fragmented pieces of inspiring conceptual texts, elucidating the general concepts of the art of search*

### • A Good Seeker •

I see... It's happening. It's already underway, even if zombie organizations haven't realized it yet. One of the most important professions will undoubtedly be the network seeker.

We will have many branches of specialization: web seekers, web stalkers, and so on. Zen and "intuition", as well as broad general knowledge, will be essential qualities for them. This is a good antidote to the hyper-specialization that currently traps our foolish, commercially oriented society. Only seekers with a broad mind will be able to grasp the "big picture" and perspectives; only they will be able to find **any** object of interest. From Vivaldi's Concerto No. 7 in "F" for four violins and cello to the second edition of the book *Police Criminelle, Technique et Tactique*.

For the first time in human history, as long as you have access to the network, where you are **doesn't matter** for your knowledge: in a large, rich city with giant libraries, good universities, and advanced cultural life, or in some impoverished hole. The lighthouse keeper's dream has become a reality.

So, what is a good seeker?

A good seeker is the type of person who can gather all the materials needed for your miserable university project in a few hours, materials that you would collect over three months yourself! Although, you still have to do the writing :—)

A good seeker is someone who, given half a dozen computers and a stable connection, can meet the library needs of any (and anywhere located!) small town. (It's unclear, though, whether such towns are interested in solving any library problems :—) )

A good seeker is someone who will personally be needed by **you** very often and strongly in the coming years – of course, unless you learn the delicate art of searching on your own! And that is the purpose of my website: a small contribution to the formation of a new generation of skilled seekers :—) )

Remember that a good seeker can turn into a very dangerous individual if needed, as no knowledge available to humans can be hidden from them.

I will say even more openly: I hope that here you will learn to find **anything** you like, freely accessible (excluding the time and effort spent on understanding what you find). Anything that can be transmitted to virtual space: images, books, ideas, source code, games, sounds, documents, applications, trends...

Here you begin a very long journey. Good luck.

### • About the Deep Web •<sup>21</sup>

Both in the network and in any other space, seekers have an almost natural – and very resilient – instinctive distrust of hype. No sensible seeker would willingly, for example, give out personal data to super-hyped sniffers like Facebook. And the "deep web" has been showing itself for years as just another example of super-hype. It's worth noting that any self-indulgent enthusiasm for any hyped-up phenomenon is ipso facto a negative sign when assessing trustworthiness.

Resources from the "deep web" are often considered better in terms of quality and relevance than those offered by the indexed web. Ideally, they should be written or verified by experts and authorities in their narrow fields. However, anyone who has explored the more well-known part of the deep web may have noticed that "authoritative" and "knowledge-storing" widely disseminated data sources often lead to unpleasantly incomplete compilations of banal truths, repeated texts, outdated or underground positions, and unverified, unfounded, sometimes even unscientific theories. To generalize further, thanks to open-access repository academic content and its resources, previously the domain of the invisible, non-indexable web, is today not much deeper than what a researcher can (of course, for free) obtain in the indexed network.

### • About the Search Process •

– Respected Fravia+, could you describe what "searching on the web" means to you?

– Incredible power! It's like reversing the flow of Niagara! Millions of new websites are created every hour, everything is in motion, changing faster than you can measure. Sites disappear, entire directories sink, even the links you entered the river through erode... The white wings of unexpectedly rushing links scatter all your focus...

– ...And?

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<sup>21</sup> [https://web.archive.org/web/20191225102610/http://search.lores.eu/deepweb\\_searching.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20191225102610/http://search.lores.eu/deepweb_searching.htm)

– And you **emerge**! You continue to follow your thread, and despite all the encountered obstacles, the search query still works! **You feel** the right direction, your excavations lead you along it, you **know** it! And you continue, and move upward, against the current, and the seeker's instinct echoes loudly and deeply in your ears. You leap over the network thresholds in the channel of rapidly changing connections and paths. And you **discover** what you're looking for, and you seize it, cutting through millions of useless sites with a clear and sharp seeker's sword in your hands. And you will cut and crush the monsters of commerce and advertising if they dare to stand in your way, O persistent seeker, disregarding the distortions of meaning, a shining child of the light of knowledge.

– Isn't this a bit too lyrical for such a topic?

– Well, but searching is a great fun, isn't it?

### • Farewell Words (Fragment) •

Our "wonderful" and "democratic" societies (where hamster-wheel-running zombies now elect frivolous individuals, bodybuilders, media corporation owners, and local rich folks to power) are speeding at full throttle along the edge of a steep slippery slope towards the abyss. There, they will perform – as always, with a smile – their last triple backward somersaults, cheered on by the cries of "hooray" and "viva" from their media lackeys... and then loudly crash onto the concrete slabs of reality below.

But enough about the grim fate: to be angry just because you're dying would be immature. And I'm not angry; I'm analyzing and chatting. In any case, a bit (even if weak) of self-defense weaponry can be found in the depths of the network, in our immeasurable horn of plenty, full of knowledge. In my humble opinion, the most powerful among them are a solid understanding of rhetoric, especially euphemisms, exegesis, or the art of fact-checking, and perhaps a bit of reliable, handcrafted reality reversal. Poetry – and, in general, tested classical culture – is also valuable armor.

Learn to find good books; you'll need them just like medieval monks who sought refuge behind walls from the barbarian destroyers. And don't neglect all sciences in general: they can become a powerful resource, even though those who would prefer you to just work, drool in front of the screen, and consume, consume, consume... spending your entire life to buy a car of a different color intentionally devalue them.

Two other possible parachutes are the ability to reverse engineer industrial programs (whose role will inevitably become more significant in our societies, in their petty mechanisms of censorship, in their attempts to sniff out) and a solid knowledge of more than "this one" foreign language. These "parachutes" might help many readers land on their feet (perhaps). Good luck in any case. I wish the very best to anyone with a head on their shoulders.



However, my most valuable advice to all friends is this: learn to enjoy your present, don't become obsessed with the future. Carpe diem, and relish the experiences that come here and now: the starry sky, the fresh wind, seashells on the beach, a loved one nearby, a long conversation with a friend in the evening twilight, the smiles of children. Exchanging these moments for a television or computer screen would be a very unequal trade... that's one of the few things I'm sure of now.

Farewell, my readers, and big hugs to all my friends from around the world. Communicating with you has been wonderful! I will try to continue as long as I can, even attempt another appearance in Cologne at the end of May, but I doubt I'll manage. In any case, soon my websites will not be updated unless my friends take care of them and set up some wiki/blog (with monitoring and corrections). We'll see. But don't worry: if you've learned the art of searching, you'll find other good resources anyway. There are quite a few out there.

Yes! There is reliable knowledge on the internet, albeit hidden and buried behind or under the slippery mud and useless trinkets, wandering dunes of advertising garbage, and an incredible number of empty and useless bait advertising sites. The very **structure** of the network was created to share information, not to hoard it, and certainly not to trade it; never forget that! That's why seekers can gain superiority through the network. **A good understanding of basic web protocols, a great browser, and a reliable Wireshark** – and nothing will stop a mighty seeker from capturing anything they deem fit.

It's evident that many materials on searchlores have become outdated, and the site's structure, resembling more of a Byzantine labyrinth, should have been smoothed out long ago. However, even in that case, I would like to keep online everything I've collected and offered to others over the years, just as it is. I believe that this site can still become a rich source of publicly available knowledge about searching, awaiting those readers of mine who are interested in studying and perfecting the challenging dual art of network search and reverse engineering of what they manage to find.

If people around the world have studied or will study I have offered, then my life has not been in vain :=)



## • APPENDIX A •

List of Searchlores mirrors and archives (available as of May 5, 2024):

- <https://fravia.2113.ch/indexo.htm>
- <https://archive.org/details/Searchlores>
- <https://github.com/opsxcq/mirror-fravia>
- <https://searchlores.jan0sch.de/index.htm>
- <https://mail.searchlores.nickifaulk.com/indexo.htm>
- <https://www.ourthing.altervista.org/fravia/indexo.htm>
- <http://biostatisticien.eu/www.searchlores.org/indexo.htm>
- <https://web.maths.unsw.edu.au/~lafaye/www.searchlores.org/indexo.htm>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20191201105758/http://search.lores.eu/indexo.htm>
- [https://archive.org/details/falconk\\_archivebot\\_www\\_search\\_lores\\_eu\\_20161207](https://archive.org/details/falconk_archivebot_www_search_lores_eu_20161207)
- <https://forum.tuts4you.com/files/file/1311-fravias-second-period-web-searching-se-arch-lores-2000-2009/>