Assignment 5\_1: Search Engine Comparison

Sample research question (relevant to the selected tools!):

Should the US have intervened earlier in WWII in the interest of halting the Genocide of Innocent Jews and other groups whom Nazi’s deemed inferior?

Query/queries used search syntax, keywords, phrases: US Intervention in WWII, Preventing Genocide, WWII Political issues, impact of the Holocaust, WWII timeline

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Search tools & logos** |  | **Tool #1** | **Tool #2** | **Tool #3** |
| Describe the interface |  | Clusty, acquired by Yippy in 2010  clusty.com  As stated by their CEO “There is nothing more important than protecting a child's innocence from being robbed by the Internet's easy access to morally reprehensible material." This site focuses on family friendly searching. | Carrot2 (metasearch engine)  www.carrot2.org  This is an open source search results clustering engine that can automatically organize by thematic categories. | DuckDuckGo  duckduckgo.com  The main feature of this site is protection of user’s privacy rights. The site does not track users’ ip addresses and promises to protect their privacy. |
| How are results returned? |  | This search engine is unique because it “clusters” its results in four major categories: 1) Clouds break down the results further into relevant subcategories, 2) Search Engine subcategories target results according to Highbeam, Yippy I, II etc. 3) Site Domain results (.gov, .edu, etc.) put like domains together for easier access 4) Time of publication, groups results in order of publication dates, (Past 7 days, past 90 days, etc.) | The result screen was well organized. Linked results were listed on the main section. On the left side, you had the choice to group them by sub-topic folders or cluster folders. You also had the choice to view results through a circle of sub-topics and Foamtree visualization topics based on clusters. These were both visually appealing.    Each sub-topic or cluster had the number of results available beside it. | The results are listed on the page as continuing list of resource links. Each is resource/result is hyperlinked and directs you to that page. There is a brief description that can be read before choosing to go to the actual resource. A site icon beside each link allows you to search your topic in that particular website.    At the far right you have the choice to search the same topic in other engines like Yahoo! Answers, Wikipedia, About.com, New York Times, and Wikia.    Under the blue drop down arrow, you can sort your results in multiple ways: by ABC order, date, site category, or you can search by a “!bang” with listed shortcuts. |
| Special features |  | 1) The best feature is that students are able to access clustered sites according to domain, increasing the likelihood of a qualified source: edu, gov, us are all clustered and then can be viewed all at one time.  2) If time frame is a factor, the results are all clustered together for organized review.  3) Subcategory clusters help the students to think of connections they may not have thought about before.  4) Filters do not always stop all questionable results, so it is nice to know that the Search Engine is being monitored at the source for child protections. | This engine had some great features. 1) The ability to view in clusters by sub-topics which would help students narrow down a topic. 2) Beside each results link, there are three icons that help you navigate the results: the cluster symbol allows you to see which cluster the result would appear in, the box with a blue arrow symbol allows you to open result link in a new window, and the yellow magnifier symbol allows you to see a preview of result. 3) Searchable tabs at the top toolbar allowed you to search your keywords by Web, Bing, News, Images, and Wiki. 4) Under the “More Options” you could select the number of results to appear as well as how the results are clustered in (Lingo, URL, or by source), country, language, and safe search. | This search site had a bunch of little special features that made it stand out. 1) It provided Better instant answers. 2) There was less spam & less clutter. 3) It has great Privacy settings. You can get unfiltered results. This site does not track personal information. 4) No next page – you just scroll down and more results appear. 5) Site icons beside results allows you to get more results from that site with one click. 6) Great settings – allows you to set privacy, change look & feel, and layout. 7) By far the coolest feature is what that they referred to as a “!bang”. With this feature, you can use !+site name after keyword query inside the search box and you will allows results from that site only. |
| What happened? |  | Using the queries above, all of the results were appropriate for the information requested and organized in a manner easy for a middle school researcher to make sense of. | Using the queries above, results were adequate & organized for a middle school researcher. With some of the search key word queries, other possible keywords appeared as clusters or sub-topics on the left giving searchers more choices. | Search results using the queries from above allowed for a variety of site domains. This allows you to evaluate sites for credibility and validity. |
| Strengths |  | The searcher can review results and identify less reliable sources all together so they are able to eliminate them before spending too much time on reviewing. | The website allows you to easily maneuver how you view the results. You can narrow down topic by using the left side folders. You can transition to images with the same key term query. You can preview the source before opening which saves time. A simple symbol can allow you to open the result link in a new window which is a nice feature for students. | It is a safe unfiltered way to search. It has a simple, clean interface. You can quickly search quality sites with either the mini side site icon or use a “!bang” in the search box with your keywords. The settings you can choose can be saved. Results can be grouped or clustered by sites which allow you to view resources from trusted or quality sites. |
| Weaknesses |  | Pop ups were more of a problem than on Google searches of the same keywords, which at a school setting may not be a problem due to the filter. | Teacher may need to model the website and all that is offers the first time. Students may need to become familiar with how to move around the website to make it work for them. | One of the weaknesses that we noted was there was no number of results given. |
| Would you recommend this search tool? For whom? In what situation? |  | I would recommend it as part of a professional development workshop, and as part of an overall lesson for 7th & 8th grade researchers on Search. It covers all search topics and has a decent amount of qualified results. | I would recommend this site as a reliable search tool. This site would be age appropriate for middle school or higher. Definitely good for research searching because of all the features it offers. | This site would be a great recommendation for middle school or high school students. It is a reliable and safe website that doesn’t filter results like some of the other search engines. It is simple to use and would be simple to teach students to use. |

**Reflection:**

We worked well together. Email & Google drive made it easy to collaborate and share our thoughts & work together seamlessly. Kathleen got the ball rolling by saving the template to her Google drive, and entering preliminary sample questions and queries. We communicated via email about a few of the websites we liked from previewing them in the module readings & playlist. We each selected a search engine to search and compare. Kathleen completed the chart with the first search tool *Clusty* and of course saved it in the Google Drive and invited Kelly to edit the document. Kelly then viewed *Clusty* and read over Kathleen’s contributions to the chart. Kelly chose to use the search tool *Carrot2* to search and complete tool #2 on the chart. Kelly sent Kathleen an email after completing tool search #2 for Kathleen to preview and add details as needed. For the final search engine, we both mentioned *DuckDuckGo*, and agreed that it would be our third search tool. We each searched on this site and added details to the chart. We collaborated on the reviews of all three search engine descriptions, as well as the formulation of our reflection. We were able to communicate via email and Google docs & Google drive made it super easy to collaborate together by adding & editing our details on our chart before submitting. Before submitting, we each looked over results & details of the chart to make sure we agreed on our work. Finally, we submitted to each our perspective drop boxes and Learning Portfolios Wikis.