

SEARCH ENGINE BLUES



Do you find it difficult locating exactly what you want online? Does the whole search engine thing baffle you? Do you type in your search term, but don't seem to get anywhere near what you are looking for? What is a stupid search engine anyway and how can you use it to its full potential? Don't give up yet. I have some helpful tips that will ensure you a more streamlined searching experience so you can make the most out of the World Wide Web, readily available from your lounge room. A search engine is a very useful tool that enables users to locate information on the World Wide Web. Search engines use keywords entered by you to find Web sites quickly and easily which contain specific information you desire. Let's say, for example, you're looking for motorcycle boots and all you are getting is information on motocross and competitions (motorcycle). What do you do? Try this; type in motorcycle+boots, and click on search. Most search engines will interpret the plus sign as meaning you only want results that have both the words 'motorcycle' and 'boots' in them. You can also exclude terms. Just say you still aren't getting what you want on motorcycle boots, you still keep getting motocross info, try this. Motorcycle+boots-motocross, then try the search. The minus sign tells most search engines to exclude the word with the minus sign in front of it. (Tip: don't put a space between minus sign and word to be excluded). If you want to be more specific, use quotes for search keywords, try using "motorcycle boots". You should now only get results that match that exact phrase in that order. If you have no joy, try a different search engine. If you want a recommendation, I suggest Google. If you don't know what or where Google is, just ask your kids or find it on the www.weipa.biz Front Page! So, just by using the plus (+) sign, the minus (-) sign and inverted commas (""), you can narrow a search down considerably. There are thousands of search engines out there and not all of them support the tips I just gave you. If you are having trouble with a search engine, look for a link to search tips, there will be lots of information on how to use them successfully. Practice makes perfect and the more you use this technique the more World Wide Web searching will become a pleasure rather than a pain.

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