

Google It

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The use of the Google search engine has become so widespread that the word Google is now being used as a verb. If you want to research a word or phrase you might say you will “Google it.” Other search engines do a great job but this column will devote itself to Google.

Finally, the 400,000+ page IRS Intranet is piloting a stripped-down version of Google. This is welcome and long overdue news. NTEU proposed this enhancement years ago.

Some of our NTEU folks are experts at Google and could write a book on the subject; some users need the basics. Google is in a dynamic state and enhancements are being deployed so fast that almost any advice could be out of date by the time it goes to press.

As of this moment, Google will allow 32 words within the search inquiry. This can be useful if you are doing the equivalent of a proximity search or you need to use the OR function. For example tax OR taxability OR taxation OR taxable.

Basics

Google searches are not case sensitive. NtEu and NTEU are the same.

“Stop words or “noise words” -- Google ignores some common words such as certain single digits, single letters and common words e.g., the, on, where and how. However, Google is working on this.

Google Lite – IRS Intranet

Try snapshot filetype:xls and then try snap shot filetype:xls

Try this out. Enter: These are the times that try men’s souls and then enter the same phrase in quotation marks: “These are the times that try men’s souls”. You should get different results. By using quotation marks before and after a phrase or proper name you will get an exact match.

Not Too Basic

Filetype: I like this one. This is the same as the File Format filter using Advanced Search. You can search for specific files such as Excel files. Try **tax filetype:xls**

The next thing you know you are on **www.IRS.gov** and you can see the tax rates going back to 1913. If you want to copy this information you may need to highlight all of the data (Control – A) and paste it into an Excel worksheet (Control – V). Feel free to ignore the other 311,000 hits.

If you have any tips or suggestions feel free to send them to me at: nteumlp@gmail.com