

Google It

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Basics

The true meaning of “OR”

OR is one of the Boolean search operators used in Google; AND, OR and NOT. Thank you, George Boole. OR means *any* of the search terms. For example, federal pay OR benefits OR retirement.

Some folks use the pipe symbol instead of OR: Federal pay | benefits | retirement. The pipe symbol is located as an upper case character on the backslash key \. Some keyboards show the pipe symbol as a vertical broken line so as not to confuse it with a one, exclamation point or the letter I.

What about “AND”?

AND will deliver search results containing all of the words preceded by AND. For example, federal pay AND benefits AND retirement. The plus sign + can be used instead of AND.

What’s “NOT” to like?

The NOT operator is intended to exclude pages containing words preceded by the NOT operator. Or you can use the minus sign with no space between the minus sign and the word to be excluded. I have not had good luck with the NOT operator.

Enter **NTEU** and see the 312,000 hits. (We need to talk about this number some other time.) It turns out NTEU also refers to the National Tertiary Education Union in Australia. These good people work in higher education, are organized into a union and are very active. They have a wine buying club. We don't.

Google Lite – IRS Intranet

Employees have a sense of the knowledge and skills required for the job. CJs, job descriptions and vacancy announcements provide some information.

What about the skills required by IRS Leaders? After all, we are the ones most affected by the possession or lack of leadership skills.

Try this: “leadership competencies” .

What you see is what you get. Or not.

How do you exclude results from our mates Down Under? Trying NTEU NOT Australia did not seem to work. I ended up excluding the Aussies by entering NTEU -.au and banished the Australian domain name to the outback. Therefore, www.NTEU.org.au was not shown in the results. Other ways exist to exclude domain names.

Not Too Basic

The Synonym operator can produce interesting results. Use the tilde symbol ~. This symbol is pronounced TILL-duh or TILL-day and is an upper case character on the back quote ` key at the top left hand corner of a standard keyboard.

Federal pay and federal ~pay are not the same.

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