

SEARCH TIPS FOR ONLINE RESEARCH



Use “quotation marks” to keep words in a phrase together

- Search: Martin Luther King → results might include Martin Luther (the sixteenth-century monk who started the Reformation), with king somewhere else on the page
- Search: “Martin Luther King” → results will include only pages with Martin Luther King, all names stay together

For long webpages, use **CTRL + F** to find a word or phrase on the page.

Narrow your search using **filters**. On the Library of Congress website, you can filter by type of document, year, subject, and other criteria.

Make sure your spelling is correct.

Use an asterisk* to search different word forms at the same time.

- Search: immigra* → results include immigration, immigrant, immigrate

If a search gives you no results, try different words for the same thing, including historical terms.

- Search newspapers: D-Day; also search: Normandy invasion

Use **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** when you combine search terms.

- Search: baseball **AND** television → results include articles and documents that mention both baseball and television
- Search: gay **OR** LGBT → pages will include either the word gay or LGBT, but not necessarily both
- Search: Martin Luther **NOT** King → results will include Martin Luther, but not Martin Luther King

Use **site:** to limit search results to the most reliable sites (.edu; .si (smithsonian institution); .gov).

- Search: suffragette march **site:loc.gov** → results will only include websites from the Library of Congress (loc.gov)

Use **-site:** to exclude search results from certain sites

- Search: suffragette march **-site:.com** → results will exclude any .com websites



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Maryland History Day