

Tips for Using Search Engines Keyword or Boolean Searching



mona lisa

Finds documents that contain either mona or lisa or any capitalized variant (Mona, MONA, liSA, Lisa). AltaVista ranks the results to show first the documents containing both words, close together, and near the top of the document.

Mona Lisa

Finds documents that have either Mona or Lisa but not any other capitalized variation. When you use a capitalized word, AltaVista assumes that you are only interested in an exact match.

+mona +lisa

Finds only documents that contain both words.

"Mona Lisa"

Finds documents that have the two words capitalized and found right next to each other. Placing quotation marks around any series of words turns them into a phrase and tells AltaVista that you are only interested in documents that have them in this specific order.

+"Mona Lisa" -Louvre

Finds documents that contain the phrase "Mona Lisa" but do not contain the word "Louvre"

+Mona +Lis*

Finds documents that contain Mona and any word starting with Lis. Use this feature if you are not sure how a word is spelled.

"Mona Lisa" | "art criticism"

Finds documents on the Mona Lisa, and within these pages, the ones that contain art criticism. The "|" symbol is referred to as a "pipe" and is used to find categories within a topic.