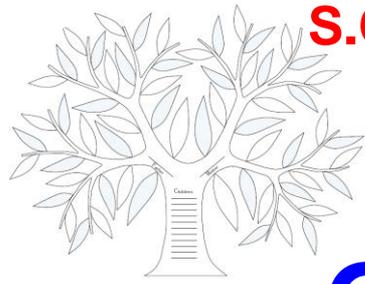


S.C. Computer / Genealogy Special Interest Group

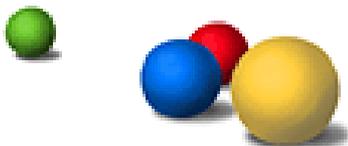
Karen Ristic



Get Better Genealogical Results from

Google™

Part 1: Basic Search Strategies **March 14, 2013**



A. What is Google?

1. Meaning

- 
1. **“Googol” is the mathematical term for a 1 followed by 100 zeros.** It’s a very large number.
 2. Google has a very large number of users – **5 billion searches a day.**
 3. It scours more than **30 trillion web pages 100 billion times a month** for pertinent information
 4. Basically, it compares a group of characters provided by the user with those stored on billions of computers to determine if a match exists.
 5. The answer is delivered quickly and guaranteed to be relevant and clear.

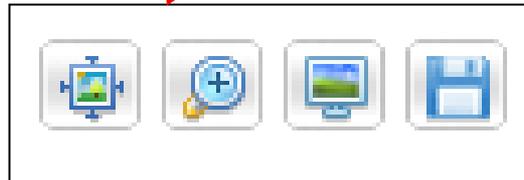


A. 2. A Bit of History

1. In 1995 Larry Page (age 24) and Sergey Brin (age 23) met at Stanford University and started the search engine, “BackRub.”
2. After much work and scrambling, September 7, 1998 Google, Inc. opened its doors in a garage in Menlo Park, CA.
3. Google’s current headquarters is in Mountain View, CA
4. **“GOOGLE’S MISSION IS TO ORGANIZE THE WORLD’S INFORMATION AND MAKE IT UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE AND USEFUL.”**

B. Google Home Page

www.google.com



See next page for explanations



Google Home Page Explanations

- ① Located in the upper left corner of the Google home page are a series of text links. The inferred default is *Search*. Alternate links are for *You+*, *Images*, *Maps*, *Play*, *YouTube*, *News*, *Gmail*, *Drive*, *Calendar*, and *More*. These links change over time
- ② Clicking on the Google logo throughout the site will generally return you to the Google home page or the top-level of the content type or feature you are using. Occasionally the logo contains artwork called “doodles.”
- ③ When you hover your cursor in this space, four icons appear: 1) view original image, 2) magnifier, 3) set wall paper, and 4) save image.
- ④ Below the input box are two buttons: the Google Search button and the *I’m Feeling Lucky* button. Clicking on the Search button has the same effect as pressing the Enter or Return key on your keyboard. The *I’m Feeling Lucky* button will take you directly to the website listed as the topmost relevant site based on your query.
- ⑤ The input box is the central component of Google and is where users enter their search terms. The box limits each query to no more than thirty-two words or a maximum of 2,048 characters, including spaces. The microphone icon allows voice input.
- ⑥ To the top right of the Google input box is your email address where you can sign in and receive specific results.
- ⑦ At the very top right are three icons: the *star* allows you to save the page as a bookmark, the *wheel* or *gear* is my Chrome toolbox with options, and the *lines* are additional settings for Chrome. You may have different options for your browser.

C. The Essentials of Google Search

1. Choosing Search Terms

1. **Choosing the right search terms is the key to finding the information you need.**



2. **For genealogists, *people, places, dates, events, and data types* will be among the most useful elements when structuring a query.**
3. In response, Google produces a results page: a list of webpages related to your search terms, with the most relevant page appearing first, then the next, and so on.
4. **To increase your chance for success, select a combination of keywords that answer the basic genealogical questions—who, where, what, and when.**
5. The first keyword or phrase listed is generally considered more important than words or phrases that may follow. Experiment with different order of words, such as John Truax and Truax, John.

2. Capitalization



- **Google searches are NOT case sensitive.** All letters, regardless of how you type them, will be understood as lower case. For example, searches for
 - *george washington,*
 - *George Washington, and*
 - *gEoRgE wAsHiNgToN*
- will all return the same results.



3. Automatic Queries [AND] [+]

1. **By default, Google only returns pages that include all of your search terms.** There is no need to include "and" between terms. To restrict a search further, just include more terms. For example,

Truax genealogy Michigan returns the same results as ***Truax AND genealogy AND Michigan***

2. The results returned are webpages that have all of these keywords on a page, in any particular order.



4. Automatic Exclusion of Common Words

- 1. Google tends to ignore common words and characters such as *the*, *a*, and *for*, as well as certain single digits and single letters**, because they tend to slow down your search without improving the results.
2. If a common word is essential to getting the results you want, you can include it by putting a "+" sign in front of it. (Be sure to include a space before the "+" sign.)
3. Another method for doing this is conducting a phrase search, which simply means putting quotation marks around two or more words. Common words in a phrase search (e.g., "where are you") are included in the search.
4. For example, to search for Henry 8, use "Henry 8" or Henry +8



5. Word Variations (Stemming)

1. Google uses stemming technology; when appropriate, it will search not only for your search terms, but also for words that are similar to some or all of those terms. For example,

--If you search for *jumping*, Google will also search for *jump*, *jumped*, and *jumps*.

--*Died* would yield results including *die* and *dies*.

2. Any variants of your terms that were searched for will be highlighted in the text accompanying each result.



6. Phrase Searches [“word word”]

1. **Sometimes you’ll only want results that include an exact phrase.** In this case, simply put quotation marks around your search terms.
2. Phrase searches are particularly effective if you’re searching for proper names, for example:
 - “john truax”
 - “truax, john”
 - “john truax” AND michigan
 - “john truax” michigan
 - “john truax” AND “anna wells”



7. Negative Search [—word]

1. If your search term has more than one meaning (*bass*, for example, could refer to fishing or music) you can focus your search by putting a minus sign ("-") in front of words related to the meaning you want to avoid. For example,

Bass –music

Montana –Hannah

Ford –automobiles –cars

2. When you include a negative term in your search, **be sure to include a space before the minus sign.**

8. Include Search [+]

- 
1. Even though Google will insert an Automatic *AND* (+) between terms, try typing them in so you can become more familiar with the syntax.
 2. **If a common word is essential to getting the results you want, you can include it by putting a "+" sign in front of it. The + sign before a word specifies the exact word and no variants.** (Be sure to include a space before the "+" sign.) For example:

“john truax” +father +Dover –Delaware +Michigan

9. Synonym Search [~word]



1. If you want to search not only for your search term but also for its synonyms, place the tilde sign (~) immediately in front of your search term. For example,

Truax ~genealogy

“John Truax” ~genealogy

“john truax” ~birth

Truax AND family AND “new york” ~genealogy

2. This operator is useful because it directs Google to find pages with a surname and/or place name, but **only those that have something to do with genealogy.**

10. OR Search [OR] [|]

1. To find pages that include either of two or more search terms, add an uppercase OR (uppercase) or piping symbol (|) between the terms.
2. **If you have frequent variant spellings for a surname the OR operator can be helpful in capturing all possible results.**
3. **Combine the use of OR with AND or quotations to add more precise filters to your searches.**
4. For example,
 - **Truax OR truex OR “du truex”**
 - **John OR Anna AND truax**
 - **“John truax” OR “anna truax” AND (michigan | “New York”)**

11. Wildcard Search [*]



1. The placement of a single asterisk (*) serves as a wildcard that instructs Google to accept any character or consecutive non-space string of characters (in quotation marks) in place of the asterisk. For example,

“john truax” ignores **John A. Truax** or **John Abraham Truax**. Better is **“john * truax”**

2. Two asterisks replaces two strings of characters. For example,

“anna ** truax” would result in **anna may wells truax** (her middle and maiden names included).

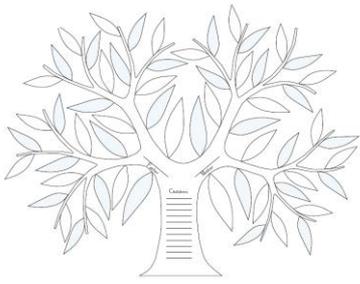
12. Domain Search

[site:www.x.com "name"]



1. You can use Google to search only within one specific website by entering the search terms you're looking for, preceded by the word "site" and a colon followed by the domain name.
2. For example, here's how you'd find **Thomas Campbell** on the website of the Immigrant Ships Transcribers guild, a very large and popular site with thousands of pages:

site:www.immigrantships.net "Thomas Campbell"



Results from Command, Site:

site:www.immigrantships.net "thomas Campbell" 

Web Images Maps Shopping Books More ▾ Search tools

About 19 results (0.15 seconds)

[ISTG Vol 11 - Ship Mary Ann](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v11/1800v11/maryann18390722.html
1 Peter King 24 Ireland farmer male 2 Ann Clarke 22 Ireland servant female 3* Mary Drumm??? 30 Ireland servant female 4 **Thomas Campbell** 45 Ireland farmer ...

[ISTG Vol 13 - Ship Europe](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v13/1800v13/europe18510517.html
... servant Ireland 86 **Thomas Campbell** 1 male Ireland 87 Samuel Malone 20 male gen smith Ireland 88 Ann Malopne 35 female Ireland 89 Elizabeth Malone 18 ...

[ISTG Vol 13 - Ship Kalamazoo](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v13/1800v13/kalamazoo18501001.html
... Samuel Stone infant male son Ireland Pennsylvania 12 Eliza Cosgrove 12 female servant Ireland Philadelphia 13 **Thomas Campbell** 26 male labourer Ireland ...

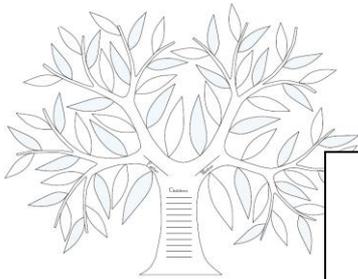
[Ship Eliza Grant - Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v10/1800v10/elizagrants18310627.html
... Potter 24 male 47 **Thomas Campbell** 19 male 48 Robert Wright 20 male 49 Martha Wright 19 fem 50 John Flicker 30 male 51 Eliza^th Flicker 20 fem 52 James ...

[ISTG Vol 12 - Barque Julia](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v12/1800v12/julia18470604.html
... 25 female spinster 78 Mary M^cGuigan 20 female spinster 79 Margaret Campbell 50 female widow 80 **Thomas Campbell** 21 male son 81 James Campbell 19 ...

[ISTG Vol 13 - Ship Mayflower](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v13/1800v13/mayflower18520916.html
... 26 John Hergen 18 male labourer Ireland 27 Mary Hergen 50 female wife Ireland 28 **Thomas Campbell** 22 male labourer Ireland 1 box 29 James Cameron 18 ...

[ISTG Vol 2 - Brig Minerva](#)
www.immigrantships.net/v2/1800v2/minerva18500515.html
Jun 21, 1999 - ... Biddy Duffy 24 spinster 14 Andrew Loughrey 40 farmer 15 Bridget Campbell 25 spinster 16 **Thomas Campbell** 10 child 17 Sarah Campbell 7 ...

19 results



Results from Command, Site:

REPORT of the Passengers on board the Ship Mary Ann* whereof Sam^l Child is Captain, arrived at the Port of Philadelphia

Columns represent: Passenger numbers*, Names, age, place of birth, Last place of settlement*, allegiance, occupation, sex.

1	Peter King	24	Ireland	farmer	male
2	Ann Clarke	22	Ireland	servant	female
3*	Mary Drumm???	30	Ireland	servant	female
4	Thomas Campbell	45	Ireland	farmer	male
5	Jane Campbell	43	Ireland	farmer	male
6	James Campbell	20	Ireland	farmer	male
7	Francis Campbell	18	Ireland	farmer	male
8	John Campbell	16	Ireland	farmer	male
9	Thomas Campbell	11	Ireland	farmer	male
10	Francis Boyle	25	Ireland	farmer	male
11	Charles Boyle	15	Ireland	farmer	male
12	James Mellderey	55	Ireland	farmer	male
13	Mary Mellderey	50	Ireland	seamstress	female
14	Sarah? Mellderey	20	Ireland	seamstress	female
15	Hannah Mellderey	16	Ireland	seamstress	female
16	Mary Mellderey	16	Ireland	seamstress	female
17	John Mellderey	14	Ireland	farmer	male
18	Elisabeth Mellderey	10	Ireland		female
19	Sam^l Mellderey	9	Ireland		male
20	Charles Maberey?	24	Ireland	farmer	male
21	Rob Hemphill	14	Ireland	farmer	male
22	Mary Hemphill	21	Ireland	seamstress	female
23	Jane Smart	12	Ireland		female
24	Smart	10	Ireland		
25	Mary Alexander	19	Ireland	servant	female
26	Mary Parkhill	19	Ireland		female
27*	Fran M^cKerlay	20	Ireland		female
28	Hannah M^cKerlay	33	Ireland	spinster	female
29	Jane M^cKerlay	13	Ireland	spinster	female
30	Joseph M^cKerlay	11	Ireland		male
31	Sarah M^cKerlay	9	Ireland		female
32	John M^cKerlay	7	Ireland		male
33	Francis M^cKerlay	5	Ireland		female
34	Hannah M^cKinley	3	Ireland		female
35	Sam^l M^cKinley	16	Ireland	clerk	male
36	John Wilson	21	Ireland	farmer	male
37	Rachel Boyle	15	Ireland	seamstress	female
38	Susannah Neill	49	Ireland	seamstress	female
39	John White	23	Ireland	carpenter	male
40	Ann White	23	Ireland		female



13. Numrange Search [#..#]

- 1. Numrange searches for results containing numbers in a given range. Just add two numbers, separated by two periods, with no spaces, into the search box along with your search terms.**
2. You can use Numrange to set ranges for everything from dates (Willie Mays 1950..1960) to weights (5000..10000 kg truck). **But be sure to specify a unit of measurement or some other indicator of what the number range represents.** For example,
“Thomas Campbell” born 1800..1805 or
“Thomas Campbell” census 1860..1910



D. Advanced Search Form

Google

Advanced Search

Find pages with...

To do this in the search box

all these words:

Type the important words: `tricolor rat terrier`

this exact word or phrase:

Put exact words in quotes: `"rat terrier"`

any of these words:

Type OR between all the words you want: `miniature OR standard`

none of these words:

Put a minus sign just before words you don't want:
`-rodent, -"Jack Russell"`

numbers ranging from:

 to

Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure:
`10..35 lb, $300..$500, 2010..2011`

Then narrow your results by...

language:

Find pages in the language you select.

region:

Find pages published in a particular region.

last update:

Find pages updated within the time you specify.

site or domain:

Search one site (like `wikipedia.org`) or limit your results to a domain like `.edu`, `.org` or `.gov`

terms appearing:

Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for.

SafeSearch:

Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content.

reading level:

Find pages at one reading level or just view the level info.

file type:

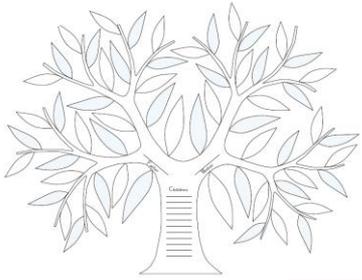
Find pages in the format you prefer.

usage rights:

Find pages you are free to use yourself.

Advanced Search

E. Search Results Page Header (1) & Search bar (2)



1

nerak2000@earthlink.net ▾

2

Google



*A Google Doodle
March 8, 2013
International Women's Day*



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Calling all young artists: Only two weeks left to submit artwork for [Doodle 4 Google](#)

E. Search Results Page (3)



John Truax 1816..1881 +New York

Web Images Maps Shopping More Search tools

About 21 results (0.18 seconds)

[Patriot War of 1837 - Nelson Truax](#)

www.nnygenealogy.com/pages/patriotwar/patriotwar-truax.html

Nelson H. Truax was born March 23, 1818 in Lowville, Lewis County New York, son of John Truax, and Rachel Hamore. When he was but a small boy his ...

[John Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p19.htm

John Truax was born on 17 July 1817 at Brome, QC. He married Agnes Engeltje Evertsen. John Truax was baptized on 17 November 1758 at New York, NY.

[Descendants of Philippe du Trieux - Person Page 8](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p8.htm

John Wyngeart Truax died on 28 March 1855 at Schenectady, NY.5 ... will of John W. Truax. [S4014] New York State Wills and Deeds, will of Isaac John Truax.

[Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p24.htm

John Marselis Truax was born on 24 August 1797 at Schenectady, NY.2 He was baptized on 1 October 1797.2 He married Mary Galbraith circa 1819 at ...

[Elsie Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p22.htm

Mary Truax was born on 22 November 1787 at Guilderland, Albany Co., NY. She was baptized on 8 ... Rebecca Truax married Roswell Yates on 18 March 1818 at Dunham, QC.1 Children of Catherine Truax and John Truax: William Truax ...

[Descendants of Philippe du Trieux - Person Page 9](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p9.htm

... John W. Truax. [S4014] New York State Wills and Deeds, will of Isaac John Truax. ... NY. Abraham Truax died on 3 December 1862 at Adrian, MI. He moved to ...

[Engeltje Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p15.htm

Children of Christina Truax and Walter Gillispie: John Gillispie Walter Gillispie ... Abraham Truax died on 9 July 1867 at Rochester, NY. Abraham Truax was also ...

[Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](#)

homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p24.htm - Cached - Similar

Descendants of Philippe du Trieux
The First Five Generations
Print Page 19

John Scott
b. 17 Feb 1816
d. 13 Feb 1862

Richard Scott
b. 17 Feb 1816
d. 13 Feb 1862

Andrew Clow
b. 17 Feb 1816
d. 13 Feb 1862

John L. Truax
b. 27 Sep 1787
d. 13 Feb 1862

Isaac Richard Truax
b. 17 May 1811
d. 13 Feb 1862

Eliza Maria Truax
b. 22 May 1814
d. 13 Feb 1862

John L. Truax was born on 27 September 1787.1 He married Hannah Davis on 26 ...

(Isaac Richard Truax may have been born circa 1816 at New York).2 He ...

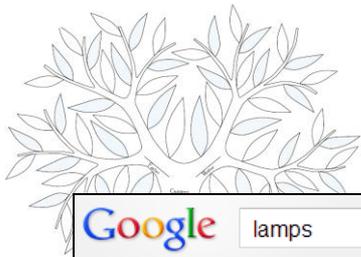
E. Search Results Page Tools and Filters (4)



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "John Truax 1816..1881 +New York". Below the search bar, the "Web" tab is selected and underlined. The search results indicate "About 21 results (0.35 seconds)". Two search results are visible:

- [Patriot War of 1837 - Nelson Truax](http://www.nnygenealogy.com/pages/patriotwar/patriotwar-truax.html)**
www.nnygenealogy.com/pages/patriotwar/patriotwar-truax.html
Nelson H. Truax was born March 23, **1818** in Lowville, Lewis County **New York**, son of **John Truax**, and Rachel Hanmore. When he was but a small boy his ...
- [John Truax - homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com](http://homepages.rootsweb.com - Ancestry.com)**
homepages.rootsweb.com/~truax/assoc/dutri5gen-p/p19.htm
John Truax was born on 17 July **1817** at Brome, QC. He married Agnes Engeltje Evertsen. **John Truax** was baptized on 17 November 1758 at **New York, NY**.

E. Search Results Page Right-hand Section (5)



Google lamps

Web Images Maps Shopping More Search tools

About 225,000,000 results (0.33 seconds)

Ads related to lamps

Lamps - LampsPlus.com
www.lampsplus.com/
 ★★★★★ 691 reviews for lampsplus.com
 The Nation's Largest Specialty Lighting Retailer. Free Ship Deals!
 Email address Zipcode [Subscribe to newsletter](#) [Privacy](#)
 Table Lamps, Floor Lamps Wall Lights, Sconces
 Outdoor Lighting Chandeliers, Ceiling Lights

Table Lamps & Floor Lamps - Save 30%-70% on All Lamps.
www.lightinguniverse.com/Lamps
 ★★★★★ 1,292 reviews for lightinguniverse.com
 Authorized Dealer - Free Shipping!
 Table Lamps - Floor Lamps - Desk Lamps - Buffet Lamps

Lamps at JCPenney® - Shop our Large Selection of Lamps.
www.jcpenney.com/Lamps
 Orders Over \$75 Ship for Free!
 Floor Lamps - Table Lamps - Lamps - Chandeliers
 Map of Las Vegas, NV and nearby jcpenney.com locations
 (702) 870-9182 - Directions

Amazon.com: Lamps & Shades: Tools & Home Improvement
www.amazon.com > ... > Lighting & Ceiling Fans
 Results 1 - 24 of 94790 - Online shopping for Lamps & Shades: Tools & Home Improvement at Amazon.com.

Lamps, Lanterns & Lighting : Home Decor & Accents | Pier 1 Imports
www.pier1.com/home-decor-accents/lighting.default.sc.html
 Shop for lamps, lanterns & lighting and other home décor & accents at Pier 1. Visit Pier1.com to browse unique, imported home décor, accents, furniture, gifts ...

Table Lamps | Overstock.com: Tiffany, Contemporary and Traditional ...

Shop for lamps on Google

 Blue and White Porcelain Te... \$79.95 Lamps Plus	 Portfolio 4-Piece Bron... \$59.00 Lowe's	 West Elm Morten Lamp... \$149.00 west elm	 Elephant Ceramic Table Lamp - World Market \$79.99 - World Market Shop The Official World Market®
 Owl Lamp - White with BL... \$39.99 Target	 Glendale Pulley Task F... \$299.00 Pottery Barn	 Tiffany-style Anielle Table... \$110.07 Overstock....	 Tortoise and Gold Table L... \$63.99 Kirkland's

Shop by brand

[Dale Tiffany](#) [Adesso](#) [Lite Source](#) [Kenroy Home](#) [Dimond](#)

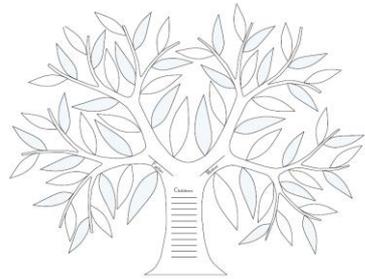
Map for lamps

F. Help

<http://support.google.com/websearch/?hl=en>



The screenshot shows the Google 'Inside Search' help page. At the top left is the Google logo, followed by the text 'Inside Search'. Below this is a blue navigation bar with links for Home, Tips & Tricks, Features, Search Stories, Playground, Blog, and Help. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'How to' and 'Fix an issue'. The 'How to' section is marked with a lightbulb icon and contains a list of links: Popular articles (highlighted with a grey arrow), Tips for searching, Explore Google search, Customize your experience, Learn about iGoogle, and Mobile. To the right of these links is a vertical list of specific topics: Enable cookies, Modify SafeSearch setting, Lock SafeSearch, Autocomplete, Sharing Goggles results, and Instant Previews. The 'Fix an issue' section is marked with a wrench icon and contains links for Issues with Web Search and Issues with iGoogle. On the left side of the page, there is a grey box with the heading 'Get started' and two sub-links: Basic search help and Explore the results page.



S.C. Computer / Genealogy Special Interest Group
Karen Ristic

**Get Better Genealogical
Results from**



NEXT MONTH:

**Part 2: More Google Tools for the Family
Historian**

(language tools, books, maps, earth, images, really advanced searching, and more)

April 11, 2013

