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Search Help

Search Pages

There are two search pages; WebSearch offers basic search features, while WebSearchAdvanced offers more control over searches.

By default searches are keyword based like in a typical search engine:

- Specify word(s) you want to find
- Multiple words form an AND search, `intranet web service` returns all pages that have the three words anywhere in the page
- Optionally specify plus signs for AND search, like `intranet +web +service`
- Enclose words in double quotes to form a literal search, like "web service"
- Specify a minus sign to exclude a word, like soap -shampoo
- Use double quotes if you want to search for a leading minus sign, like "-nowarn"
- **Stop words** are excluded from a keyword search:
  - Stop words are common words and characters such as "how" and "where", defined in the SEARCHSTOPWORDS setting in the TWikiPreferences
  - If you want to search for a word in the stop word list, prefix the word with a plus sign
- **Example:** To search for all topics that contain "SOAP", "WSDL", a literal "web service", but not "shampoo", enter this: soap +wsdl "web service" -shampoo

Regular expression search searches for a set of regular expression patterns:

- Patterns are separated by semicolons
- An AND search is performed for the list of patterns
- An exclamation point preceding a pattern indicates an AND NOT search; use it to exclude a pattern, like !web service
- If you want to search for a semicolon or an exclamation point, escape them with a leading backslash, like \!shampoo
- **Example:** To search for all topics that contain "SOAP", "WSDL", a literal "web service", but not "shampoo", enter this: soap;wsdl;web service;!shampoo

Formatted Searches

You can embed a nicely formatted search in a topic by using the `%SEARCH{}%` variable described in VarSEARCH. Searches can be of different types; among others, TWiki offers keyword search, regular expression search and a flexible SQL-like query language.

Search TWiki Variables

TWiki Variables are text strings - `%VARIABLE%` or `%VARIABLE{ parameter="value" }%` - that expand into content whenever a topic is rendered for viewing. TWiki Variables are useful to create TWiki applications and workflows, but there are also variables for content creation such as `%TOC%` to show a table of content and `%INCLUDE{}%` to include another page.

You can search TWiki Variables.
Search Preferences

TWikiPreferences defines these search preferences:

- **SEARCHDEFAULTTYPE**: Default search type for search forms which calls the search script
  - Currently **keyword**
- **SEARCHVARDEFAULTTYPE**: Default search type for %SEARCH{} variable
  - Currently **literal**
- **SEARCHSTOPWORDS**: List of stop words (common words and characters to exclude from a keyword search)
  - Currently *a, all, am, an, and, any, as, at, b, be, by, c, d, e, for, from, g, h, how, i, i'm, i.e., in, is, isn't, it, it's, its, j, k, l, m, n, o, of, on, or, p, q, r, s, t, that, that's, the, this, to, u, v, w, was, wasn't, what, what's, when, where, who, who's, will, with, x, y, z*

**Related Topics**: UserDocumentationCategory, WebSearch, WebSearchAdvanced, FormattedSearch, RegularExpression, QuerySearch, TWikiVariablesSearch

This topic: TWiki > SearchHelp
Topic revision: r5 - 2009-04-14 - TWikiContributor