Table of Contents

Search Help ........................................................................................................................................................1
Search Pages.......................................................................................................................................................1
Formatted Searches...........................................................................................................................................1
Search TWiki Variables.................................................................................................................................1
Search Preferences..........................................................................................................................................2
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 preceeding 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

Note: Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at TWiki:TWiki.SearchHelp