

Search and we will find

**Description:** Students learn about the power of advanced search options to help narrow results when looking for resources.

30 – 60 MINS	MEDIUM	AGES 10+
ACTIVITY TYPE: INVESTIGATION		

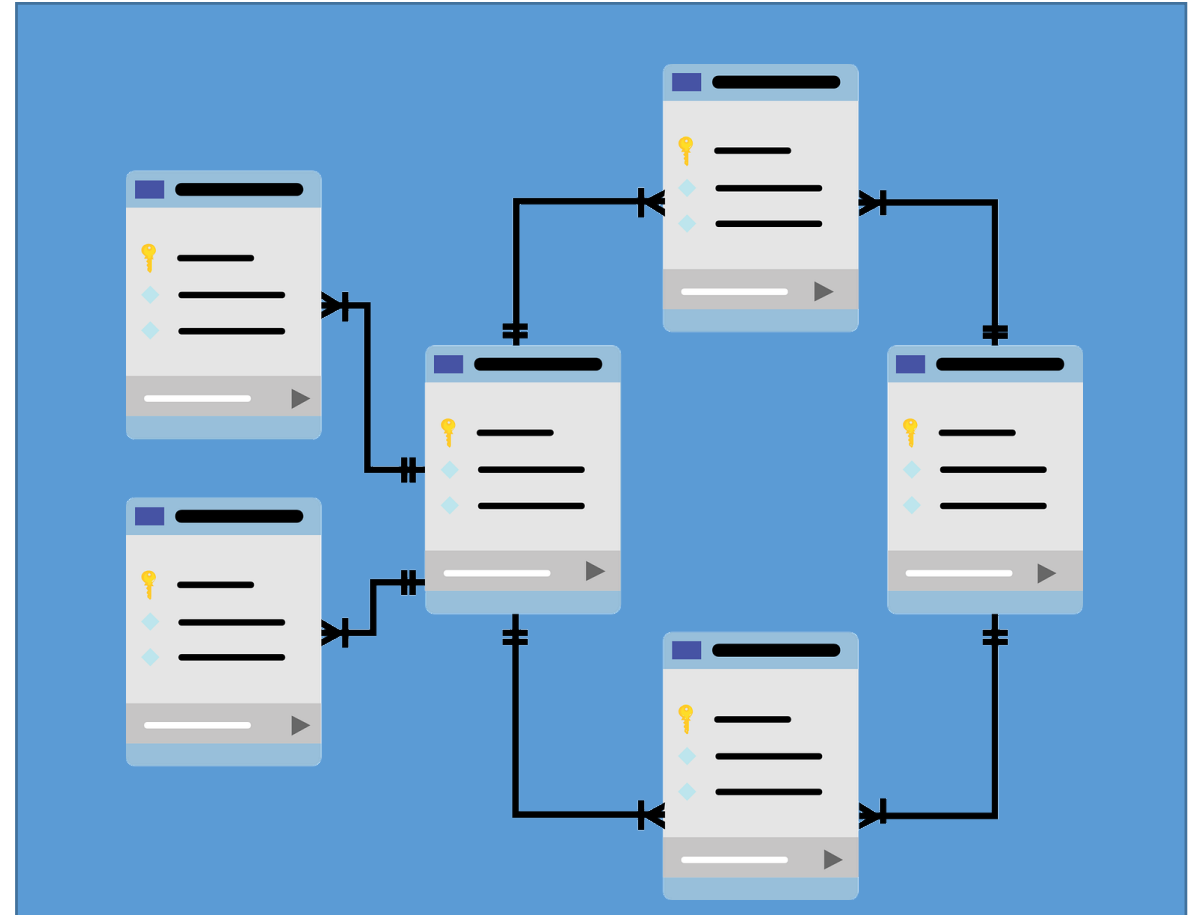


Image source: [mcmurryjulie/ Pixabay](#)

# You will need:

- Computer connected to the internet
- Topic of interest
- Paper and pencil (or document on the computer)



Image source: [StartupStockPhotos/ Pixabay](#)

# About the activity:

Children will have the opportunity to search for different resources for a topic of interest, learning to use the advanced search features to help filter their results.

Some of the resources they will have the chance to search include:

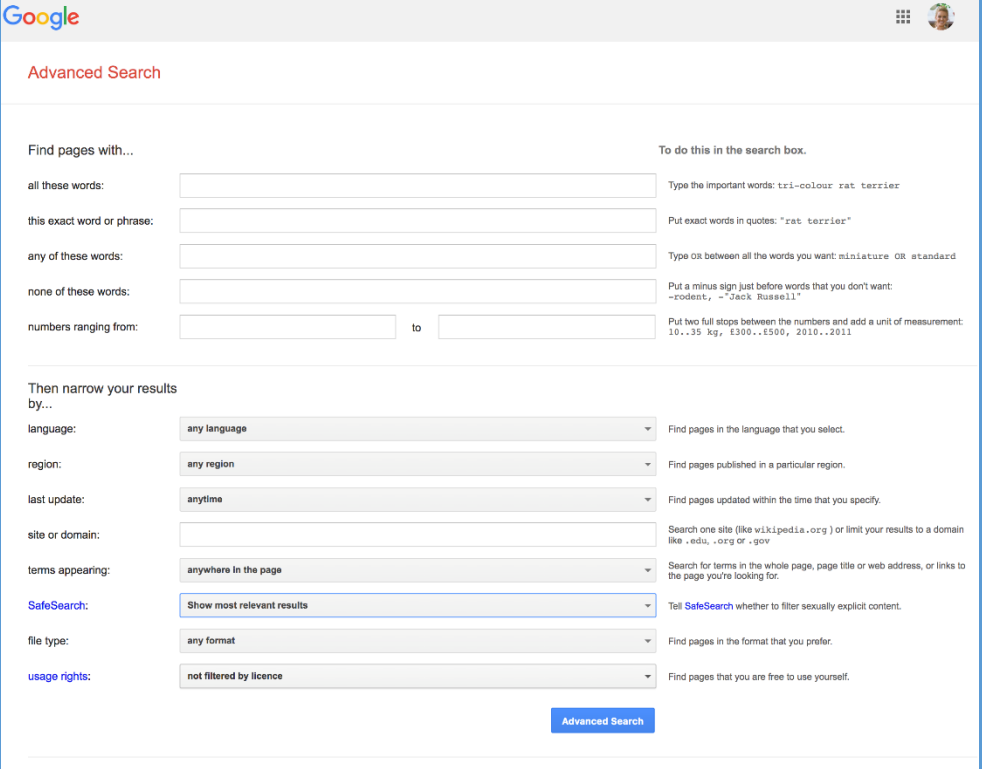
- Search engines
- Images
- Library catalogues



Image source: [200degrees/ Pixabay](#)

# Advanced search, what's that?

- An advanced search provides the user with an opportunity to apply a set of filters to narrow down results. By applying different filters to your query, you will often eliminate irrelevant information.
- Advanced search filters are available in many of the resources we use everyday for example, web search engines (Google, Yahoo), catalogues (library) and shopping (clothes, supermarket).



The image shows the Google Advanced Search interface. At the top, the Google logo is visible on the left and a user profile icon on the right. Below the logo, the text "Advanced Search" is displayed in red. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Find pages with...", contains five input fields: "all these words:", "this exact word or phrase:", "any of these words:", "none of these words:", and "numbers ranging from:". The right column, titled "To do this in the search box.", provides instructions for each field: "Type the important words: tri-colour rat terrier", "Put exact words in quotes: 'rat terrier'", "Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard", "Put a minus sign just before words that you don't want: -rodent, -'Jack Russell'", and "Put two full stops between the numbers and add a unit of measurement: 10..35 kg, £300..£500, 2010..2011". Below these columns is a section titled "Then narrow your results by..." with several dropdown menus: "language:" (any language), "region:" (any region), "last update:" (anytime), "site or domain:" (empty), "terms appearing:" (anywhere in the page), "SafeSearch:" (Show most relevant results), "file type:" (any format), and "usage rights:" (not filtered by licence). A blue "Advanced Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Image source: [https://www.google.com.au/advanced\\_search](https://www.google.com.au/advanced_search)

# Let's get started...

## 1

- Make a choice about a topic you would like to find out some more information about.
- List some key words or questions that could help with your search.

**Good tip:** It is a good idea to select something your child is interested in, e.g. football, space, castles or something they may be learning about at school.



Image source: [TeroVesalainen/ Pixabay](#)

# What's next...

## 2

- Begin by accessing a search engine of your choice. For this example, Google has been selected. Find the advanced search button and click to access.

**Good tip:** If you cannot find an advance search button, try entering 'advanced search' in the search engine and the option should come up.

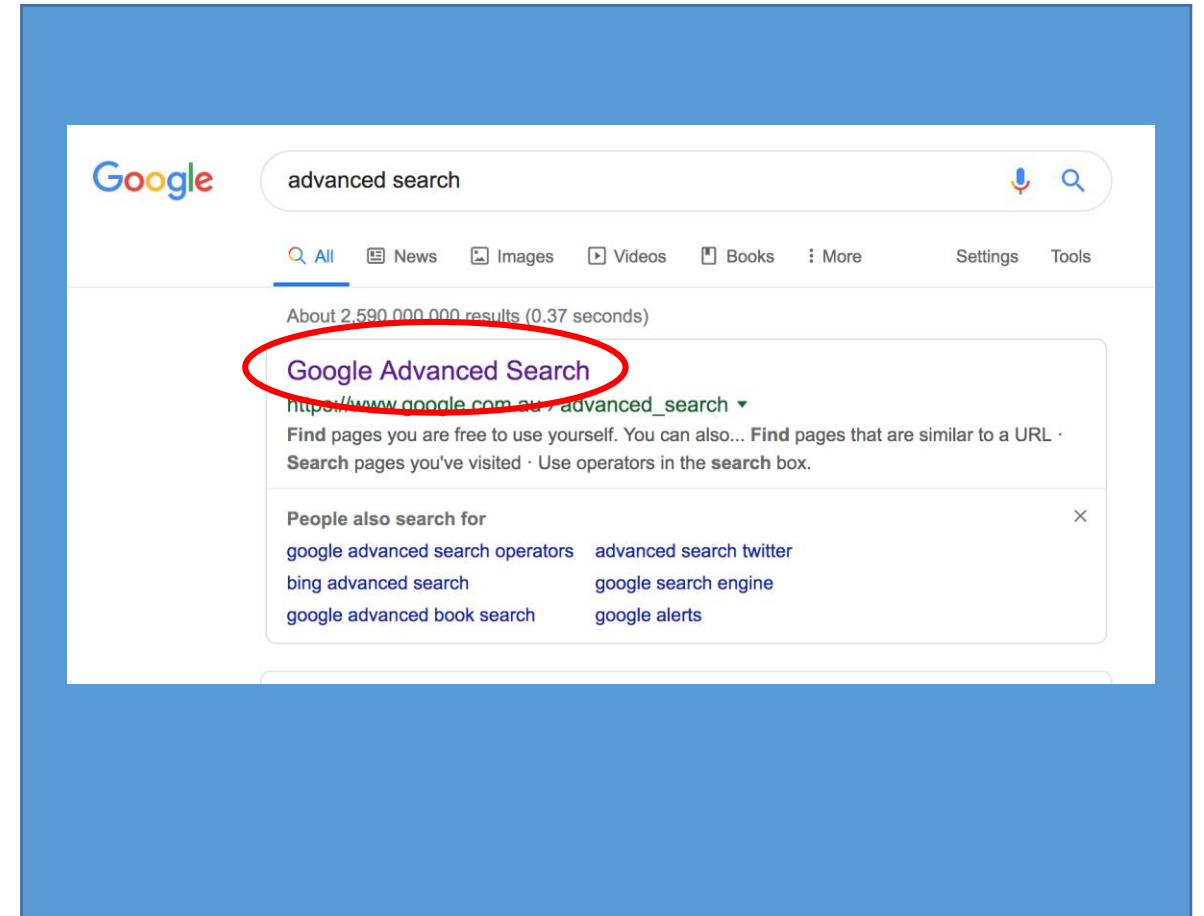


Image source:

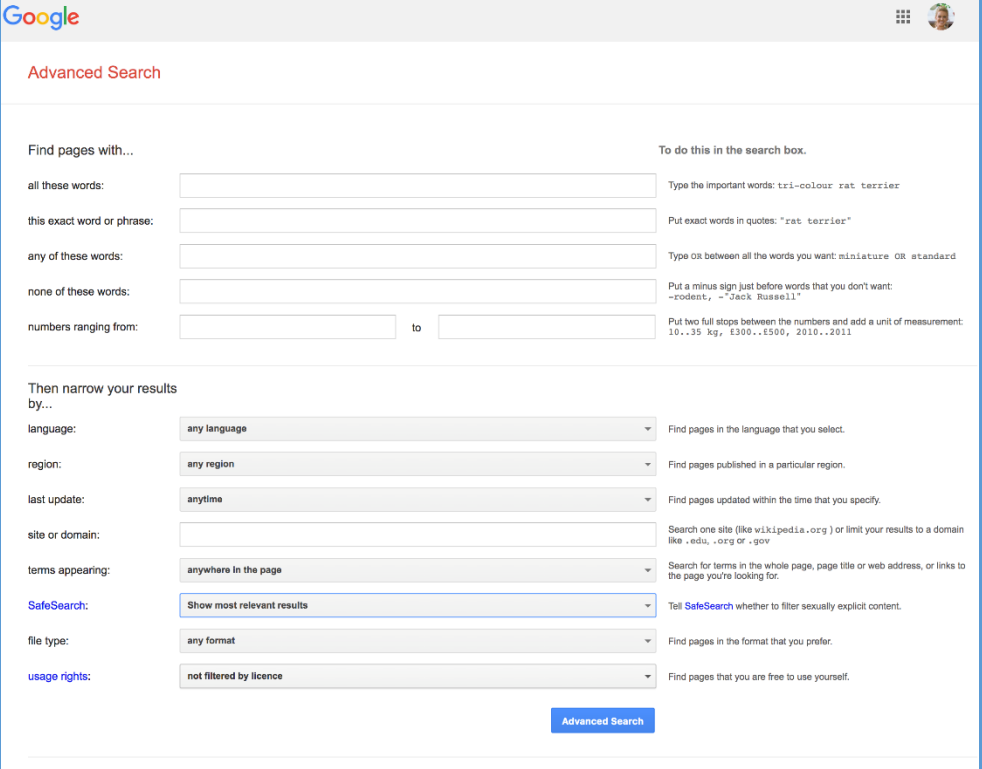
# What's next...

## 3

- Discuss the features of the advanced search with your child. Using your list of key words, start to enter some information and click on the advanced search button to see what you can find.
- You can also discuss some of the punctuation required to help narrow the search, for example using quotation marks to find the exact words.

**Good tip:** If you would like to learn about different ways to refine your searches, you might like to look at the list via this link:

<https://bit.ly/1kktu5l>



The image shows a screenshot of the Google Advanced Search interface. The page is titled "Advanced Search" and features a search bar at the top. Below the search bar, there are two columns of options for refining search results. The left column, "Find pages with...", includes fields for "all these words:", "this exact word or phrase:", "any of these words:", "none of these words:", and "numbers ranging from:". The right column, "To do this in the search box.", includes instructions for using important words, exact words in quotes, OR operators, minus signs, and full stops. Below these columns, there is a section "Then narrow your results by..." with dropdown menus for "language:", "region:", "last update:", "site or domain:", "terms appearing:", "SafeSearch:", "file type:", and "usage rights:". A blue "Advanced Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Image source: [https://www.google.com.au/advanced\\_search](https://www.google.com.au/advanced_search)



# What's next...

## 4

- In addition to finding information about your topic, you may be interested in finding some images.
- If you click the image filter button when using the search engine, and then the tools button, you can narrow your search further by type, size, colour etc.

**Good tip:** This may be a good opportunity to talk about copyright and images. You can show your children the usage rights filter which narrows your search to show images that are not constrained by copyright.

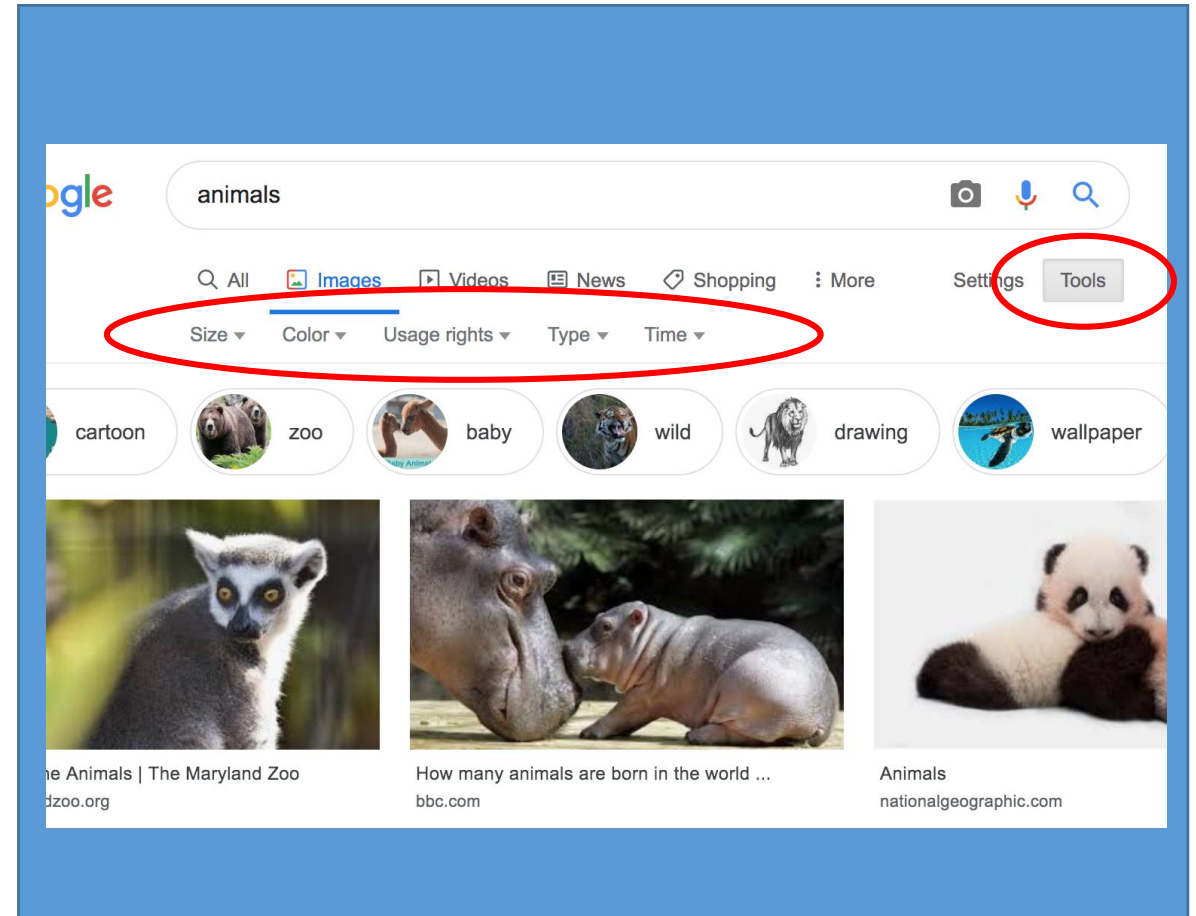


Image source: <https://bit.ly/2osx9dP>

# What's next...

## 5

- Next, you might like to try accessing your local library catalogue to see what resources they have on your topic of interest.
- As you select the advance filter, discuss the terminology, such as keywords and 'exact match' with your child.
- You might like to narrow down the search to access resources in a particular collection or location too.

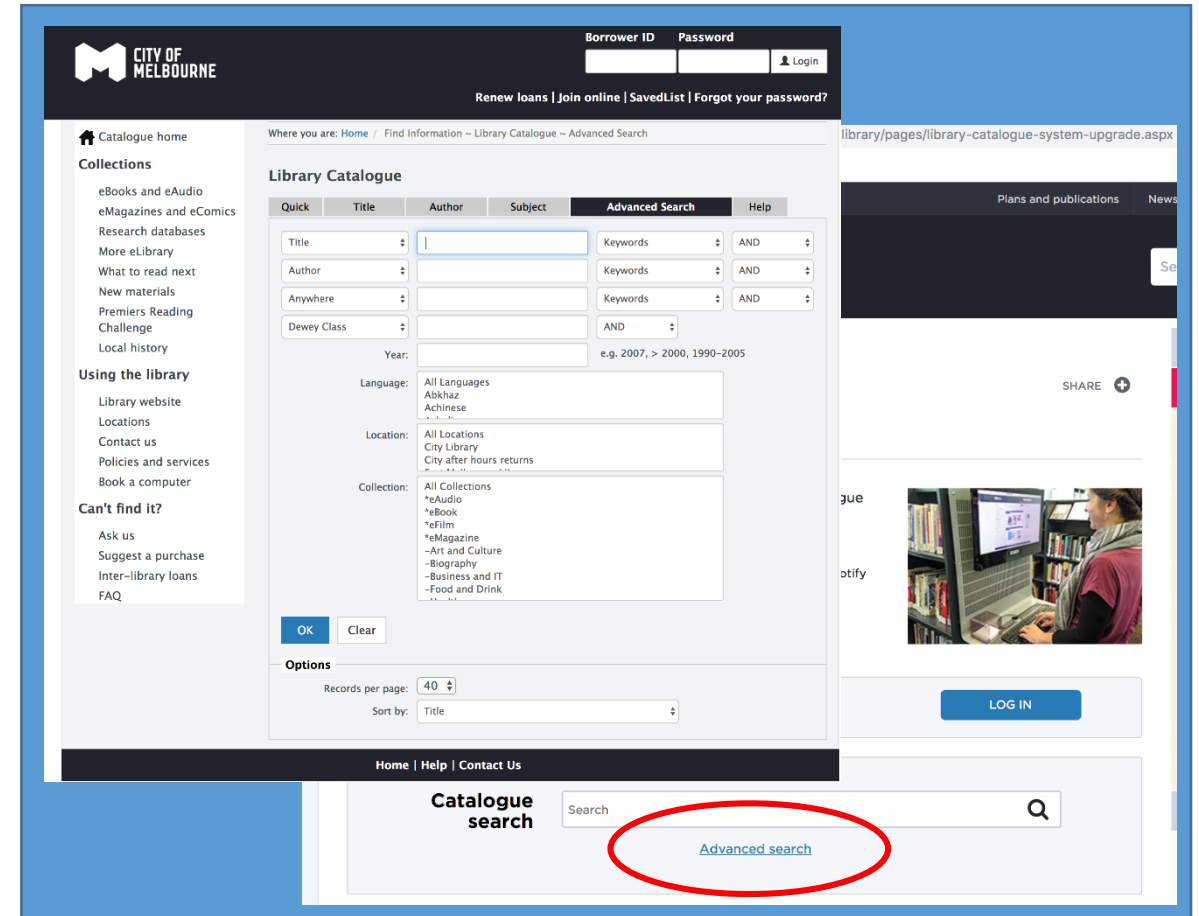


Image source: <https://bit.ly/2IUBFAj>

# Congratulations...

## 6

- You have now located a range of resources that can help with your investigation.
- You now have the opportunity to read or view the resources you have found to learn more about your chosen subject.
- You might like to write a report or make a short video about your findings.

**Good tip:** Just remember, if you do not find what you want the first time, try another search term or filtering technique.



Image source: [Free-Photos/ Pixabay](#)

# Why we are learning about this ...

One of the aims of the Digital Technologies curriculum is to develop learners who can confidently use digital systems to efficiently and effectively automate the transformation of data into information and to creatively communicate ideas in a range of settings. (Source: <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/technologies/digital-technologies/aims/>)

Data is all around us in our everyday life and can be represented in a range of ways such as symbols (weather icons), visually (pictures or maps), or text. One of the challenges in our data driven world is to find accurate information that meets our need. By learning how to use digital technology during the data collection stage to help filter our results, the information field will be narrowed and irrelevant information should be excluded.

To find out more ... <http://www.digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/teachers/australian-curriculum/sequencing-the-curriculum>