

For my search, I decided to look specifically at the marriage between Shakespeare and his wife Anne Hathaway. As my search progressed, I started leaving out his children, any potential mistress and (what made the most difference) eliminated any reference to the modern day actress Anne Hathaway. For most of my results, I was able to decrease the field to fewer than 300 results consistently. I began my search with Google, a search engine I was very familiar with. Afterwards, I moved to Google's competitor Bing and ended my simple search engines with HotBot.com. After examining these results I moved on to Dogpile.com to see how that site would fare in comparison to the simpler engines.

Starting with Google, I managed to narrow my range in about 9 different searches. In the end, I managed to use the operations to bring the number of search results down from 54,000,000 to 193 results (a significant jump). For this specific search, I used this search command: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND (Anne Hathaway, -Actress), -Children, -Mistress, .gov OR .org OR .net. The end results specifically removed the .com, but give the remaining domains. It also removed the phrases "children" "mistress" and "actress" (specifically for Anne Hathaway's name) to specifically give only information about William Shakespeare's marriage to his wife Anne Hathaway. Other helpful operations were the parentheses and the use of quotations around 'English Playwright' to specify exactly which William Shakespeare was being referenced. The results that remained after bringing the search down from the thousands were limited, and useful only to a point. Sadly, some of the sources didn't seem very

useful and did not mention anything too different from one another. For the most part, the results mentioned when Shakespeare was married and to who, but did not go into much detail beyond that. When narrowing the search, many different sites were removed to eliminate any extraneous sites, so information may have been lost in the process. However, without requesting this specifically in the search, the results aren't as relevant to the search.

With Bing, I was able to narrow my results in as few as three search variations. Whether this is the result of more familiarity with Boolean operators or simply, that Bing really is more effective search engine is uncertain, but something made this search easier to narrow the field. The search was brought down from 81,000,000 to 50 results, with far more practical results. For the final search, I typed: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), NOT Children. Interesting both 'NOT' and '-' were treated equally, eliminating the following phrase from the search. Much to my surprise, the results from the Bing search yielded much better results. I was taught that Google was the best possible source to use when on the web, but I am considering changing that option. Bing immediately brought me to more academic sources on Shakespeare's marriage. The results I got from Bing included some .com results, but all of the results were much more relevant than the .com results from Google. Interestingly, the site didn't require me to cite which Shakespeare or what the domain name should be to narrow the search results. The results were most academic articles as well as sources written specifically about what I was looking for.

When using HotBot.com (the site I was least familiar with), I had to focus to bring the results down from 94,300,000 to a more conservative 183 results in five

variations of the search with different Boolean Operations involved. To achieve this, I entered the search: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), -Mistress, .com. The results were useful, directly taking me to biographies specifically about the playwright. The sites were mostly essay sites, so I feel that they were very reputable sources. Similarly to Bing, I found these essay sites to be very useful in a practical search, certainly more so than Google.

For the meta search engine, I overall didn't discover anything new or interesting. Dogpile.com, used results from Google, Yahoo and Yandex in the final search. The website didn't display the number of results for each search. When doing a general search, I can see the appeal of using this broader source to reach many possible points of access through the different 'Spiders' of different versions of search engines. I used the following phrase for my search: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), NOT Children. With this search used on Bing (the most exact of my search tools), I ended up with five pages of results (less than 300, I believe). The content of the results was, overall, very relevant. The search functions brought back useful information about my search, why the search didn't bring some of the less relevant sites from Google's usual search is unclear (the same search typed in Google yields 11,700 results).

Overall, I found two sites to be the most effective as far as the Boolean Operation system is concerned. For a simple search, Bing is one of the best sources to use academically, bringing the most relevant results in the most efficient searches (what gives the Google standard thousands of results, only yields a few dozen on Bing). The results on Bing were also much more accurate and useful, sifting out the random mentions of the

phrases in personal blogs or useless websites. The other website that I thought was the most helpful was Dogpile.com. This site gave the results of the many different search engines in one, easy results page. These results were relevant and, for the most part, very useful in the search.

This exercise made me reconsider the way that I will search in the future. Google is generally thought of as the 'best search engine', but after this project, I feel like it is more like the 'best-*known* search engine'. While it is very thorough, it often brings back millions of results that could potentially have nothing to do with your topic, except for a fleeting reference to just one of your keywords. Bing is certainly the most relevant of the various simple search engines, but the best results by far came from Dogpile.com, the meta search engine. I think most people choose Google, due to its familiarity, but other search engines are far more effective in giving relevant results.

Results Appendix:

SEARCH SUBJECT: Specifically Shakespeare's Marriage to Anne Hathaway

When going through these search engines, I didn't really feel comfortable unless the final search yielded over 100 results.

GOOGLE SEARCH:

This is the search engine that I'm most familiar with. I knew how to work the results down, but the search engine only allowed me to remove a few hundred thousand at a time and it required a great deal of specificity to get the direct results.

William Shakespeare biography

About 54,400,000 results (0.28 seconds)

54,000,000: William Shakespeare biography

William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway

About 672,000 results (0.15 seconds)

672,000: William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway

William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway, -Mistress

About 598,000 results (0.21 seconds)

598,000: William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway, -Mistress

William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway, -Children, -Mistress

About 146,000 results (0.43 seconds)

146,000: William Shakespeare biography AND Anne Hathaway, -Children, -Mistress

William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -Actress), -Children, -

About 129,000 results (0.35 seconds)

129,000: William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -Actress), -Children, -
Mistress

Playwright William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -Actress), -

About 33,100 results (0.41 seconds)

33,100: Playwright William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -Actress), -
Children, -Mistress

"English Playwright" William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -

About 3,840 results (0.58 seconds)

3,840: "English Playwright" William Shakespeare biography AND (Anne Hathaway, -
Actress), -Children, -Mistress

Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND (Anne Hathawa

About 1,660 results (0.31 seconds)

1,660: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND (Anne Hathaway, -
Actress), -Children, -Mistress

Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND (Anne Hathawa

About 193 results (0.34 seconds)

193: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND (Anne Hathaway, -
Actress), -Children, -Mistress, .gov OR .org OR .net

BING Results:

It took three variations until search showed less than 300 results. It was a little easier to eliminate extraneous results. Final results were similar to google, but the system was easier to work down to a few simple result.

Biography of William Shakespeare

81,000,000 RESULTS

81,000,000: Biography of William Shakespeare

Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (-Actress)

235,000 RESULTS

235,000: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress)

Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), NOT Children

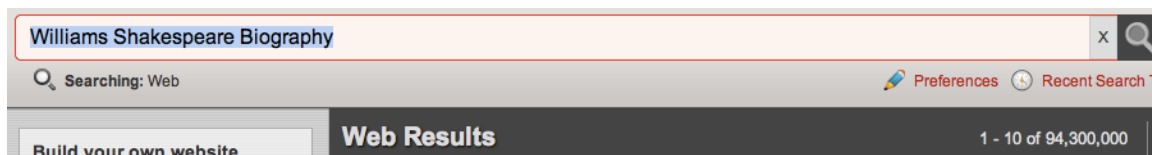
50 RESULTS

50: Biography of "English Playwright" William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), NOT Children

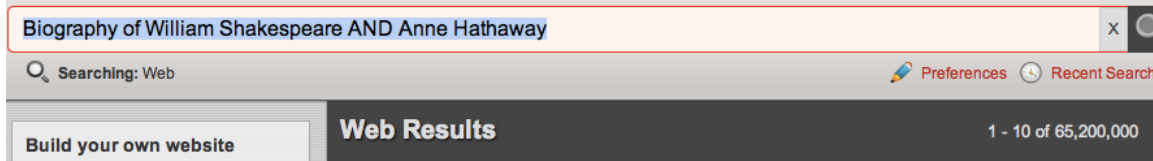
Interestingly, both NOT and – were treated the same way when typed into the search engine.

HOT BOT Results:

HotBot took some patience to deal with, but didn't require additional specificity to bring the results down to a more reasonable number. When the results were too specific, the only results I did get were very questionable.



94,300,000: William Shakespeare Biography



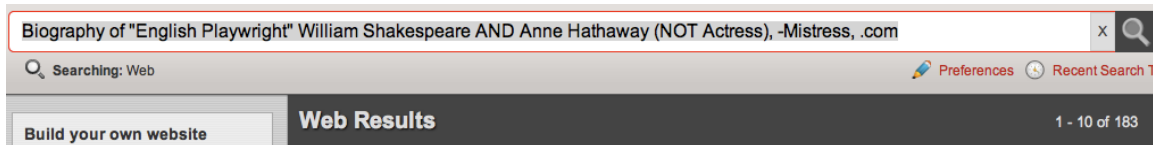
62,200,000: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway



231,000: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress)



135,000: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), -Mistress



183: Biography of William Shakespeare AND Anne Hathaway (NOT Actress), -Mistress, .com

Again, NOT and – were treated the same way in the Boolean structure.

METASEARCH ENGINE: dogpile.com

No way to determine number of search results. I preferred the single search engine results when trying to narrow the field down. I felt less comfortable bringing the field in without knowing how many sites I was eliminating.