

## Google: Beyond Searching

**Google Books** – Google Books is essentially a database of books that Google has scanned from libraries all over the world. Type in a title or a subject to search for books that fit your criteria. This is helpful to find books that mention a particular topic that you are researching. Many of the books are also available full text to be read online. To get to Books, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) . Click **more** and then **Books**.

**Google Finance** – Google Finance is a great place to get the most up to date company, stock, and news updates. One part of Google Finance is **Google Domestic Trends** which can be helpful for charts and information regarding an industry as a whole. To get to Google Finance, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and click **more** and then **Finance**. You can also use this address: <http://www.google.com/finance>.

**Google Images** – Searching Google Images brings back pictures that Google pulls from websites. Just type in the search term and hit enter. You'll be able to scroll through the results until you find something interesting. When you see a picture you like, just click it to see it in its original size. Images is especially helpful if you need a picture of a particular type of car, clothing from a particular period, or even for ideas for things like pumpkin carving. Of special note is the archive of Life photos (these are linked to on the main Google Images page). To get to Images, go to [ww.google.com](http://www.google.com) and click **Images**, located in the top left hand corner. You can also use this address: <http://images.google.com>.

**Google Maps** – Google Maps is extremely useful for directions as well as for information on a specific location. Just type in the address or location (for example "Shedd Aquarium") and hit enter. The left side of the page will display possible matches for the location. Click the one you need and it will be pinpointed on the map. A white box will appear with information on the location including the address, phone number, and user reviews. Easily get directions by clicking on **Get Directions** and then **To Here** or **From Here** options and putting in the other address. One other great function lets you **Search nearby**. Say you'd like to find a good pasta restaurant near the Shedd Aquarium. Just click the **Search nearby** button and type in **pasta**. Hit enter, and on the left side of the page you'll see a list of nearby restaurants that serve pasta. You can see the rankings, reviews, and directions without ever leaving the page. To get to Maps, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and click **Maps**, the fourth link from the left hand side of the page. You can also use this address: <http://maps.google.com>.

**Google News** – Google News aggregates stories from all over the world as well as close to home. Items are categorized by type (for example World, Entertainment, Sports) and are easily searchable. It's a great way to get the most up to date information on a topic from a variety of viewpoints. To get to News, go to

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and click **News**, the fifth link from the left side of the page. You can also use this address: <http://news.google.com>.

**Google Scholar** – Google Scholar is a terrific place to look up scholarly articles and dissertations that might be useful when researching. Some articles require a subscription, but many are freely available full text. To get to Scholar, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), click **more**, and then **Scholar**. You can also use this address: <http://scholar.google.com>.

**Google Squared** – Google Squared converts the results from a normal web search into an easily customizable table that helps you compare various aspects of the topic. For example, if you are searching for a hotel in Chicago, Google Squared will create a table that compares the prices, neighborhoods, reviews, and more. This table can be edited to remove or add information. To get to Squared, use this address: <http://www.google.com/squared>.

## Other Useful Tools

**Goog-411** – This new service allows you to dial Google from your cell phone for business information. Just call 1-800-GOOG-411 (1-800-466-4411). The automated operator will ask your location and the type or name of business. You'll have the option to be connected directly to the business, get the information over the phone, or have it texted to you. The service is completely free.

**Google Discover Music** – Type in an artist or the name of a song and Discover Music will bring up websites that allow you to listen to it, find lyrics, and buy songs and albums. To try it out go to: <http://www.google.com/landing/music/>.

**Google Fast Flip** – Fast Flip is a version of Google News that shows selected articles from news, sports, and entertainment websites and publications. It's easy to "flip" through the screen shots of these articles and find something you're interested in. Check it out at: <http://fastflip.googlelabs.com/>.

**Google Mobile** – Text your question to GOOGLE (466453) and you'll receive a message with the requested information. Standard text messaging charges apply.

**Google Voice** – Coming soon, this service will provide one free phone number across all of your mobile and home devices. Domestic calls will be free and international calls will be discounted. It even includes lots of cool features like voice mail transcribing.

Voice is still in beta. To get an invitation to try it out, go to:  
<http://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html>.

**Google Wave** – The much anticipated Google Wave will look a little like a cross between a chat room, an instant message, and a wiki. It's essentially a virtual space where you can communicate in real time. The Wave is saved so you can add additional information at any time you'd like. There are lots of neat features like real time translation (someone who speaks only French can speak in real time to someone who only speaks Spanish) and easy file sharing. This will be a great collaboration tool. To get your invite, go to: [wave.google.com/](http://wave.google.com/).

Questions? Feel free to contact the library at (847) 382-1300 or [adultref@balibrary.org](mailto:adultref@balibrary.org).