

Web Search Exercise: Gothic Revival Architecture

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Web Search Exercise

As my job, I give guided tours of a Gothic Revival house that was built in 1846. I really enjoy my work and visiting house museums so I wanted to search a topic that was related. I am curious to find out what other examples of Gothic Revival architecture are still in existence so I want to research the topic of Gothic Revival Architecture. To make my topic a compound search, I can search for it as “gothic revival” and architecture. Since I would like to find examples I will change my search terms to “gothic revival” AND architecture AND (house OR museum OR example).

To begin my search I have entered the terms into the advanced feature of Google. It returned 3,370,000 results. The search yielded some sites that give photos of Gothic Revival structures that are still standing today. This is what I was interested in. However, the search also returned sites that sell plans so that people can build a modern Gothic Revival home and sites about Gothic Revival style furniture. I will remove the word example because it seems too broad. That has lowered the return to 3,040,000 results. I tried removing the word architecture, but that made the number of results go to 3,270,000 results. I will return the word architecture.

To see what just Gothic Revival returned I deleted all of the other search terms. That returned 3,400,000 results. I would really like the sites that I find to make mention of museums by adding back the word museum, the list dropped to 1,120,000 results. I do not want sites about furniture or house plans, but I am hesitant to list these words in the not section since I know they would both be found on the site for the museum where I work. Instead I think that I will limit the domain to .org. This will give me results only from non-profit organizations in the United States. The new limitation has reduced the results to 231,000, however there are still many pages coming up that are about furniture collections in museums. Blocking the word furniture lowered the number of results to 194,000, but there are still many sites about furniture being returned. By removing the word “collection” instead of “furniture” many of the sites about furniture are no longer coming up in results. There are now 159,000 results. I think that this topic is too broad. I will try to restrict my search to Connecticut and see what happens. "gothic revival, house museum" Connecticut OR CT -collection site:.org This is too narrow of a search with only 2 results. "gothic revival" "house museum" Connecticut OR CT -collection site:.org is at 5,140 results. This is a very large number but I do not think the results are accurate since the official page for where I work is not coming up. I tried to limit the list to only house museums in Connecticut by saying that CT must come up on the page. My thought was that this would pick up on the museums' addresses, however Google interprets CT to mean CT or Connecticut so it continues to return results from around the country. My final search terms are CT "gothic revival" "house museum" -Rhode site:.org . There are 13,500 results and I still cannot find the official page for the museum where I work.

CT "house museum" Woodstock "gothic revival" -Rhode site:.org 11,400 results

The next search engine I am going to try is Yahoo. I will start with the same terms that I began with in my last search: “gothic revival” AND architecture AND (house OR museum OR example). The search returned 26,600,000 results. I will try “gothic revival” AND architecture AND museum. Example could describe many things and house is a common word so I have removed those two terms. The new search yielded 10,400,000

I like the excerpts of the websites that are listed in Yahoo. They make it easy for me to know which sites may be useful. Also, the way the pages are ranked is nice. Since I removed the word “house,” there are no longer advertisements for house plans coming up on the first page of results. The furniture pages that were a problem in Google are also not present on the first page. By adding the term CT the results came down to 1,050,000. That is still too many results, but I

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am happy to note that the museum where I work is coming up second on the list. All of the results on the first page are actually sites about museums in Connecticut. Yahoo like Google interprets CT to mean both CT and Connecticut.

Restricting the search to .org has come up with 77,000 results. Removing the word “architecture,” which seems repetitive brings the list to 31,700. The second page of results and beyond still lists museums in Rhode Island and New York. Yahoo appears to return more results on this topic. There are still unrelated results, but the order they are listed in makes the information more useful.