
Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem

Posted by [jameskuyper](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 13:27:39 GMT

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lbusett@yahoo.it wrote:

- > Hi all,
- >
- > is it only me, or the "search" function of the newsgroup doesn't
- > work ?

"search" isn't a function of the newsgroup, it's a function of a newsreader.

Your message headers indicate that you're posting from yqd.googlegroups.com. Google has one of the most complete usenet archives available, and is possibly the best available place to go to search for old usenet messages. Being the best does not, unfortunately necessarily imply that it's any good, only that all of the alternatives are even worse; and that is indeed the case with Google groups. The search engine is cranky, unreliable, and frequently produces inconsistent results.

- > Results of the searches seems to be limited to the last couple of
- > months (e.g., if I search for "histogram" I only get 6 results.... I
- > don't believe that this can be correct ;-)

I get 892 results - which doesn't mean that there's necessarily anything wrong with your search - this could be an example of Google groups inconsistency.

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 13:35:18 GMT

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James Kuyper writes:

- > The search engine is cranky, unreliable, and frequently produces
- > inconsistent results.

This reminds me of someone I know. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 14:00:37 GMT
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On Jul 28, 8:06 am, "lbus...@yahoo.it" <lbus...@yahoo.it> wrote:
>
> Results of the searches seems to be limited to the last couple of
> months (e.g., if I search for "histogram" I only get 6 results.... I
> don't believe that this can be correct ;-)

I get 7 results from Google groups from searching on "histogram"
because now it also returns your message ;-)

But yes, Google groups seems (for me at least) to have recently
changed their default search criteria to only search the last 3
weeks. You have to go the "Advanced Search settings" and click on
the "Anytime" button to indicate how far back you want to search.

--Wayne

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 15:05:03 GMT
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In article <MPG.24d8ac7e84b4ef9398a735@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> James Kuyper writes:
>
>> The search engine is cranky, unreliable, and frequently produces
>> inconsistent results.
>
> This reminds me of someone I know. :-(
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

I resemble that remark!

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [jameskuyper](#) on Wed, 29 Jul 2009 00:40:53 GMT
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wlandsman wrote:

...
> I get 7 results from Google groups from searching on "histogram"
> because now it also returns your message ;-)
>
> But yes, Google groups seems (for me at least) to have recently
> changed their default search criteria to only search the last 3
> weeks. You have to go the "Advanced Search settings" and click on
> the "Anytime" button to indicate how far back you want to search.

That would explain the inconsistency; I always use advanced search.

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [lbusett@yahoo.it](#) on Wed, 29 Jul 2009 12:55:03 GMT
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On 29 Lug, 02:40, James Kuyper <jameskuy...@verizon.net> wrote:

> wlandsman wrote:
>
> ...
>
>> I get 7 results from Google groups from searching on "histogram"
>> because now it also returns your message ;-)
>
>> But yes, Google groups seems (for me at least) to have recently
>> changed their default search criteria to only search the last 3
>> weeks. You have to go the "Advanced Search settings" and click on
>> the "Anytime" button to indicate how far back you want to search.
>
> That would explain the inconsistency; I always use advanced search.

Yes, this is it. If I use the "advanced" option the results of the search are OK.

This change in the default search criteria seems really awkward to me.... Since when I use this newsgroup I often found answers to my problems in posts that were some years old !

By the way: does anyone know if it is possible to access the "advanced search" options from the main comp.lang.idl-pvwave google groups page ? Maybe I'm a little dumb, but until now the only way that I found out to perform an advanced search is to start from the main goggle groups page (<http://groups.google.com/>) and then click on "advanced search". This is not so user-friendly, since any time that I

want to search the newsgroup I have also to specify in the advanced search options the name of the group that I want to search.

Thanks to all for the help,

Lorenzo

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Wed, 29 Jul 2009 13:52:04 GMT
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On Jul 28, 8:40 pm, James Kuyper <jameskuy...@verizon.net> wrote:

> wlandsman wrote:

>

> ...

>

>> I get 7 results from Google groups from searching on "histogram"

>> because now it also returns your message ;-)

>

>> But yes, Google groups seems (for me at least) to have recently

>> changed their default search criteria to only search the last 3

>> weeks. You have to go the "Advanced Search settings" and click on

>> the "Anytime" button to indicate how far back you want to search.

>

> That would explain the inconsistency; I always use advanced search.

To reduce noise in the results, google conveniently gives us the option of putting "author:self" in the advanced search query, which works very well unless your name happens to be "coyote" ;-)

Ciao,
Paolo

Subject: Re: newsgroup search problem
Posted by [Matt\[2\]](#) on Wed, 29 Jul 2009 15:04:16 GMT
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zz zz <lbusett@yahoo.it> writes:

> Yes, this is it. If I use the "advanced" option the results of the
> search are OK.

I think something is more broken than just using the advanced or not.

I was just trying to update my quicksearch macros for firefox.

try the difference between histogram and HISTOGRAM. Also the number of results changes depending on whether you sort by relevance or by date?

I find it hard to believe there are only 165 posts about map_set and 1,020 for MAP_SET...unless you request "ordered by date" then you only get 195.

Arrrgh!

Matt

--

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