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Productivity Tip #13

Using search engines becomes easier when you add a little math into the mix. Search engine math is really quite easy. All you need to remember is that a + placed in front of a word means only results with a tag for that specific word will show up. A – sign placed in front of a word however, drops all results with that word in it. So, say you want to search for "Santa Clause" and you want to focus on the legend of the individual. If you only search for "Santa Clause" your results will most likely bring up links to Holiday world in Santa Clause Indiana, and the Tim Allen movies from a few years ago, along with various others. However if you use search engine math to be a bit more specific you can weed out unwanted results. For instance, searching for "+santa +clause -indiana" will result in pages that have "santa" or "clause" but will avoid references to Indiana, and in the process eliminate any references to Holiday world (which is in Santa Clause, Indiana). You can be even more specific though and search "+santa +clause +legend -Indiana -movie." The results obtained from this search will include only pages that reference "Santa Clause" and his "legend" and will avoid Holiday World and those pesky Tim Allen movies. Searching in this way can help to give you relevant information faster. Try it with the search above and see how the results differ. I bet you'll be surprised.

GET SITES

"Great Educational Technology" Sites
www.wordle.net
www.storybird.com

Future Training

I would like to thank everyone who has shown interest and attended trainings so far this year. I do realize that the training thus far, at least for white boards, has been very broad. As we move forward we will focus on more specific technologies and how to apply them to the classroom. There will be a number of supplemental trainings on new and exciting technologies that you can choose to take part in as we head into the second semester. I will also be instituting a feedback forum in the coming weeks. The forum will allow you to provide constructive criticism and request specific trainings, one on one. It will also provide a forum to keep you up to date on everything that is going on. More details coming soon.

Upcoming Events and Training

*November 26th & 27th—Happy Thanksgiving
*Remember, if you need any one on one training, send me an email and we can set up a time to meet.

Ed Soft Celestia

Celestia is freeware for the astronomer in all of us. With great applications in the area of science and even literature you're sure to love it. Celestia creates virtual outer space for you to explore alone or with your class. You can manipulate planets and stars, watch them orbit in real time, or speed time up to allow for faster observations. You can even record the activity to show at a later time. Celestia can be downloaded at http://www.shatters.net/celestia.