



Power Google Searching for State and Local Government Information

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The Challenge



- ▶ Searching for government information has always been a challenge. Federal government information, as cataloged in our library catalogs, when all the PURLs are resolved, resolves to over 1,400 separate Internet domains (at least last time I counted in 2010). Keeping stats on clickthroughs is somewhat handled with GPO's PURL statistics.
- ▶ Local information presents its own challenges. State and local governments don't like using what was originally intended for them to use as Internet domains, often preferring "cute" URLs instead (myflorida.com).
- ▶ It often is a source for great confusion. Wyoming takes center state with state content on 4 different Internet domains.



History of the .gov Top-Level Domain

- ▶ TLD = Top-Level Domain (examples: .com; .gov; .org; .mil; .net; and every country of the world. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains)
- ▶ 1985 - .gov TLD was established. The U.S. is the only country to have a TLD for government. Other countries often use a secondary domain for their government sites like go.jp, gov.uk, gov.cn, gob.mx, gouv.fr.
- ▶ 1997 – General Services Administration (GSA) begins to administer name registration for .gov sites.
- ▶ 2003 – GSA allows for state, local, and tribal governments register for .gov domains, so that they can have an “official” branding.



Background of the .us Top-Level Domain

- ▶ 1985 - .us TLD was established.
- ▶ States could each have own domain following pattern: state.**xx**.us, where xx is the two-letter postal code.
- ▶ Counties would be patterned **co**.[countyname].**xx**.us
- ▶ Cities would be patterned **ci**.[cityname].**xx**.us



Front Server vs. Back Server

- ▶ Migrating from one server domain to another one is complicated. States have many agencies with different administrative policies and technical abilities. For this reason many states currently have content in different places. I call content hosted on the most front-facing Web site the “front server,” and content on the original .us site the “back server.”



Syntax of Site-Specific Searching

- ▶ `site:colorado.gov`
- ▶ RULE: "site" must be all lower-case
- ▶ RULE: No space after colon

- ▶ Other helpful syntax:
- ▶ `filetype:pdf` – This is useful since most substantive material tends to be in PDF format.
- ▶ This syntax can be used for any filetype: Word (.doc, .docx); Excel (.xls, .xlsx); PowerPoint (.ppt, .pptx); EndNote libraries (.enl); Shapefiles for import to mapping programs (.shp), etc.

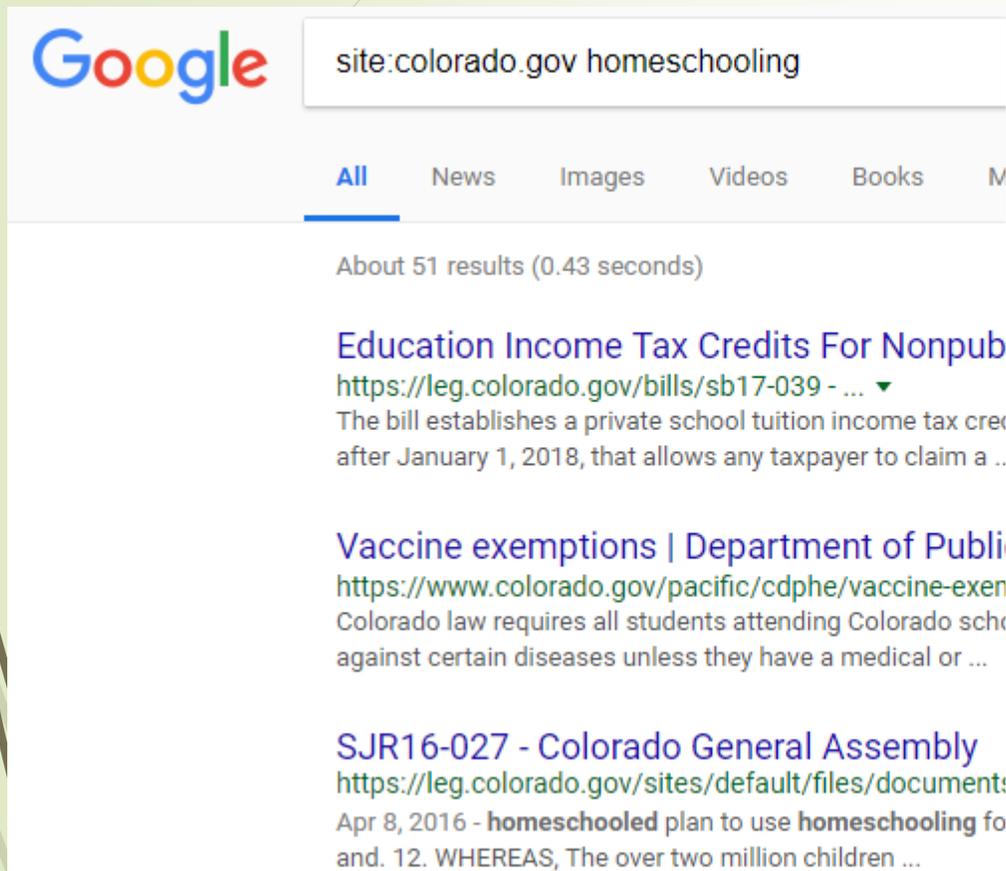
States

Pattern **xx.us** [where xx is 2-letter postal code]

State	Intended Main Page	state.xx.us (backserver)	Other sites
Arizona	az.gov (997K);	state.az.us (18K);	azleg.gov (139K); azcourts.gov (8K); azsos.gov (26K)
California	ca.gov (37,000K)	state.ca.us (4K)	
Colorado	colorado.gov (509K)	state.co.us (2,230K)	co.gov (12K)
Montana	mt.gov (4,820K)	state.mt.us (nothing)	montana.gov (0.1K)
Nevada	nv.gov (206K)	state.nv.us (72K)	
New Mexico	newmexico.gov (8.5K)	state.nm.us (315K)	nm.gov (15K)
Oregon	oregon.gov (1,010K)	state.or.us (2,630K)	
Utah	utah.gov (7,800K)	state.ut.us (23K)	
Washington	wa.gov (19,400K)	state.wa.us (18.5K)	
Wyoming	wyo.gov (29K)	state.wy.us (161K)	wy.gov (63K); wyoming.gov (15K)



Note the Differences! Colorado



Google site:colorado.gov homeschooling

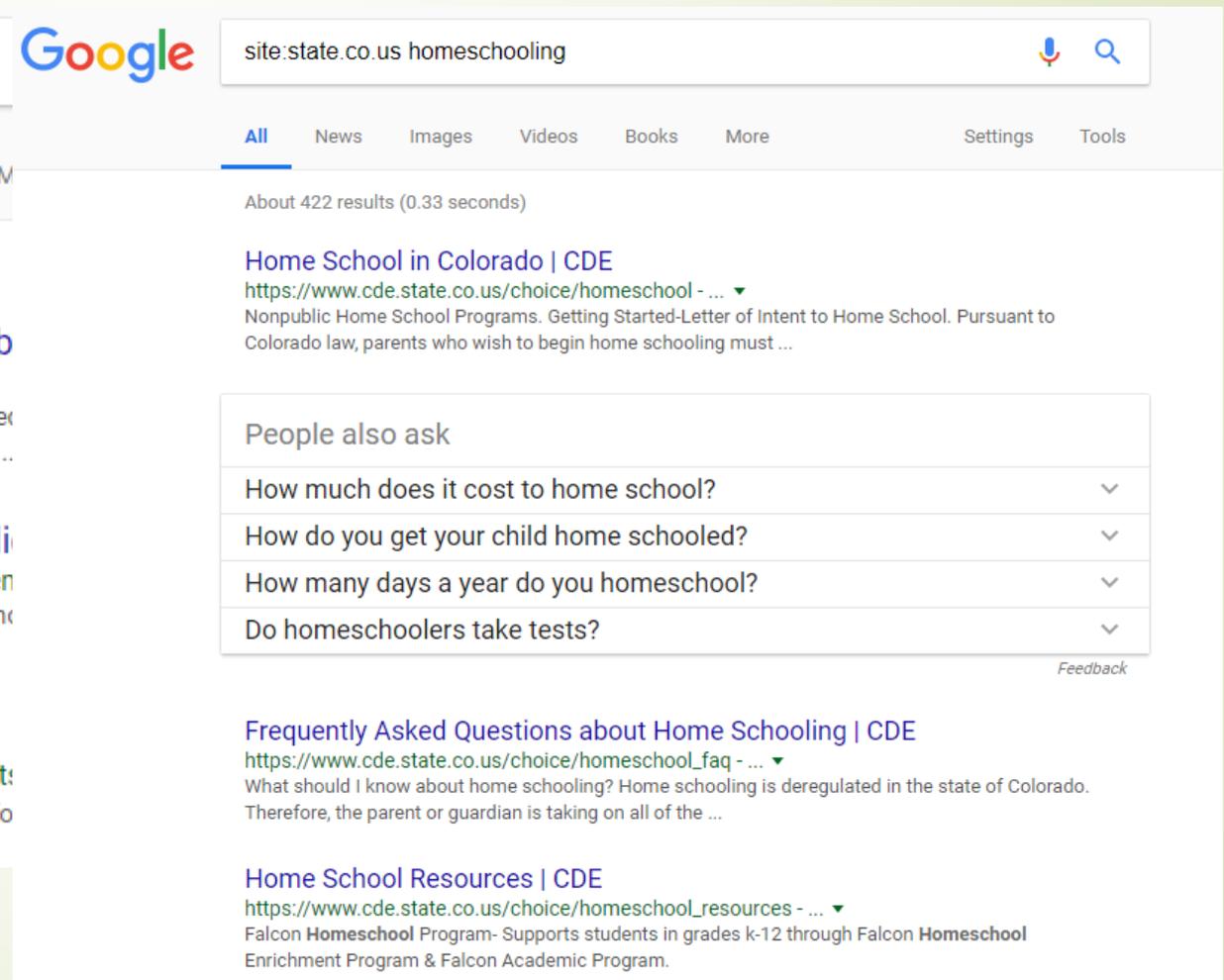
All News Images Videos Books M

About 51 results (0.43 seconds)

Education Income Tax Credits For Nonpub
<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb17-039> - ...
The bill establishes a private school tuition income tax credit after January 1, 2018, that allows any taxpayer to claim a ..

Vaccine exemptions | Department of Public Health
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vaccine-exemptions>
Colorado law requires all students attending Colorado schools against certain diseases unless they have a medical or ...

SJR16-027 - Colorado General Assembly
<https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/SJR16-027.pdf>
Apr 8, 2016 - **homeschooled** plan to use **homeschooling** for and. 12. WHEREAS, The over two million children ...



Google site:state.co.us homeschooling

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About 422 results (0.33 seconds)

Home School in Colorado | CDE
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool> - ...
Nonpublic Home School Programs. Getting Started-Letter of Intent to Home School. Pursuant to Colorado law, parents who wish to begin home schooling must ...

People also ask

- How much does it cost to home school? ▾
- How do you get your child home schooled? ▾
- How many days a year do you homeschool? ▾
- Do homeschoolers take tests? ▾

Feedback

Frequently Asked Questions about Home Schooling | CDE
https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_faqs - ...
What should I know about home schooling? Home schooling is deregulated in the state of Colorado. Therefore, the parent or guardian is taking on all of the ...

Home School Resources | CDE
https://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool_resources - ...
Falcon **Homeschool** Program- Supports students in grades k-12 through Falcon **Homeschool** Enrichment Program & Falcon Academic Program.

Note the Differences! Oregon

Google site:oregon.gov "drivers license"

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About 468 results (0.50 seconds)

[PDF] Drivers' License Checks - Oregon.gov
<https://www.oregon.gov/das/Risk/Documents/R>
State agencies are authorized to conduct **drivers' lic** Management recommended practice. • These check

Oregon Secretary of State: Oregon Mo
<https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/pages/motor-vote>
Oregon Motor Voter is modernizing voter registratiog convenient way for more Oregonians to become regi

[Doc] Vehicle safety sample program for
<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/pubform/ve>
Employees who drive on company business must ha record. Violations of this policy may result in revocat

Google site:state.or.us "drivers license"

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About 731 results (0.40 seconds)

[PDF] Drivers' License Checks - Oregon.gov
<https://digital.osl.state.or.us/islandora/object/osl%3A100353/datastream/OBJ/view> - ... ▼
State agencies are authorized to conduct **drivers' license** checks on their employees¹. This is a DAS Risk Management recommended practice. • These checks ...

[PDF] Introduction This is a guide to the DMV screens. It provides informatio...
https://www.dhs.state.or.us/training/foodstamps/desktools/dt_dmvscreengd.pdf - ... ▼
WVIR {ENTER}. Information you will find on WVIR: 1. Choose either: a. Person Name Search List WVLN b. **Drivers License** Display WVLD c. Vehicle Display.

Drivers' license checks | Oregon State Library
<https://digital.osl.state.or.us/islandora/object/osl:100353> - ... ▼
Drivers' license checks. Summary; Full Description. Title from PDF caption (viewed on October 31, 2017), This archived. Download pdf. This archived document ...

Boulder County, Colorado



site:bouldercounty.org waste disposal

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About 2,930 results (0.34 seconds)

Hazardous Waste - Boulder County

<https://www.bouldercounty.org/environment/hazardous-waste/>
Hazardous **waste disposal** for businesses is by appointment only for Broomfield counties that generate small quantities of hazardous ...
[About Household Hazardous ...](#) · [Household Hazardous Wastes ...](#) · [H](#)

About Household Hazardous Waste - Boulder County

<https://www.bouldercounty.org> › [Environment](#) › [Hazardous Waste](#)
The Hazardous Materials **Management** Facility brochure provides access to **Waste Disposal** for Businesses services for businesses, ...

Household Hazardous Wastes Accepted for Disposal

<https://www.bouldercounty.org> › [Environment](#) › [Hazardous Waste](#)
Free Reusable Products. Shop here first for free reusable products at our operation. **Wastes** Accepted. Our facility is able to take most, ...



site:co.boulder.co.us waste disposal

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About 242 results (0.39 seconds)

Hazardous Waste Disposal for Businesses - Boulder County

www.co.boulder.co.us › [Environment](#) › [Hazardous Waste](#) - ... ▼
There is a fee for the service based on **waste management** costs for type and weight of **waste** delivered, plus surcharges for overhead and construction. **Disposal** ...

Nederland Transfer Station and Recycling Drop-off - Boulder County

www.co.boulder.co.us › [Environment](#) › [Trash and Hauling](#) - ... ▼
Trash Disposal Fees. \$2 – Bag – 13 gal. kitchen **trash** bag; \$4 – Bag – 30-33 gal. **trash** bag (most popular size); \$6 – Bag – yard and leaf bag; \$16 – Loose **trash**, ...

Hazardous Waste FAQ - Boulder County

www.co.boulder.co.us › [Environment](#) › [Hazardous Waste](#) - ... ▼
Why do I need to **dispose** of my HOUSEHOLD hazardous **wastes** differently from ... Does my community offer household hazardous **waste collection** events that I ...

Thurston County, Washington

Google site:thurstoncountywa.gov homeland security preparedness

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About 21 results (0.24 seconds)

Thurston County | Home | News Release Detail

www.thurstoncountywa.gov/tchome/pages/newsreleasedetail.aspx?L
Thurston County Recognized for **Preparedness** Efforts ... respond to any pu including the 5-county **homeland security** region 3.

[PDF] Thurston County Washington 2017-18 Preliminary B

www.thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc/.../2017-18-preliminary-budget.pdf -
Dec 5, 2016 - **Internal** service funds account for centralized services provide health insurance, social **security**, retirement, and planning, **preparednes** recovery for disaster events.

[PDF] Preliminary Budget - Thurston County

www.thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc/boccbudgetdocuments/2016-prelin
Nov 23, 2015 - include: health insurance, social **security**, retirement, and ... I Expenditures related to the purchase of services or supplies planning, p response and recovery for disaster events.

Google

site:co.thurston.wa.us homeland security preparedness

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About 73 results (0.24 seconds)

[PDF] Disaster and Defense Preparedness for Agriculture - Thurston County

www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/Orgs/ARC/ReadyAgPreparednessWorkbook.pdf - ... ▼
This material is based upon work supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – **National** Institute of Food and. Agriculture (NIFA) under ...

Emergency Management Links ~ Internet Library - Thurston County

www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/Links/Links.htm - ... ▼
May 21, 2018 - Personal & Family **Preparedness**, **Homeland Security** & Domestic **Preparedness**.
Biological, Chemical & Environmental Hazards, Landslide ...

The Official Website of Thurston County Emergency Management ...

www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/ - ... ▼
May 21, 2018 - Check Out the Recent King 5 Disaster **Preparedness** Segment. Click here to check ...
Homeland Security & Domestic **Preparedness** · Biological ...

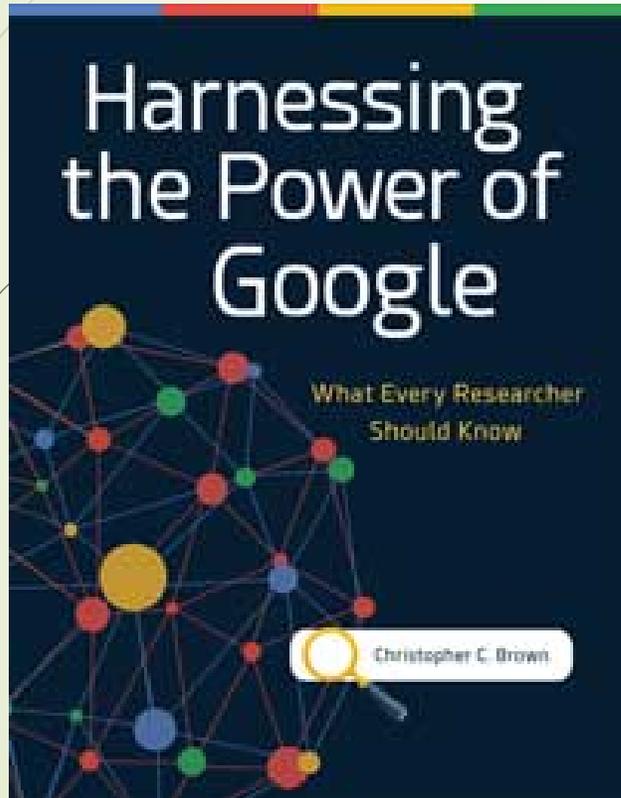
Cities

Pattern **ci.**[cityname].xx.us

- site:olympiawa.gov (5.7K) – also site:ci.olympia.wa.us (.5K)
- site:denvergov.org (3,190K) – also site:ci.denver.co.us (22K)
- site:ci.quartzsite.az.us (2.4K)
- site:ci.moscow.id.us (1,870K)
- site:portlandoregon.gov (107K) – also site:portland.or.us (8.5K)
- site:seattle.gov (288K) – also site:seattle.wa.us (14K)



More on Google Searching in My Book



Brown, Christopher C. 2017. *Harnessing the Power of Google: What Every Researcher Should Know*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited. ISBN: 978-1-4408-5712-6 (paperback); 978-1-4408-5713-3 (ebook)