
 **Important note:** When you edit this page, you agree to release your contribution into the **public domain**. If you don't want this or can't do this because of license restrictions, please don't edit.  This page is one of the *Public Domain Help Pages*, which can be freely copied into fresh wiki installations and/or distributed with Foresight Wiki software; see [Help:Contents](#) for an overview of all pages.

The quickest way to find information in MediaWiki is to look it up directly. On the left-hand side of your screen there is a **search** box with two buttons under it labeled "Go" and "Search".

Put your keyword in the searchbox.

- **Go** - (or *Enter* on keyboard) will take you automatically to the article, if it exists.
- **Search** - will search the text of all pages on the wiki (with some restrictions, see below).

If you clicked `?Search?`, or you clicked `?Go?` and the page you were looking for did not exist, you will be presented with a list of articles that matched your search criteria (or a message that no matches were found).

How it works

Here's how the search works:

- Only the article content is searched - the page title is ignored.
- The article content is searched in its raw (wikitext) form - i.e., it searches the text that appears in the edit box when you click `?edit?`, not the rendered page. This means that content coming from an included template will not be picked up, but the target of piped links will be.
- Even if you enclose a phrase in quotes, the search looks for each word individually. e.g., if you enter "world war 2" it will return pages that contain "world" and "war" and "2".
- The search is not case-sensitive, so "MediaWiki", "mediawiki" and "MEDIAWIKI" all give the same result.

Restricting the search

If you click the `?Search?` button without filling in anything, you will be taken to `?Special:Search?` which gives you extra searching options (also available from any search results list)

You may find it useful to restrict a search to pages within a particular namespace e.g., only search within the User pages. Tick the namespaces you require for this search.

By default only the namespaces specified in your preferences will be searched. Logged-in users can change their preferences to specify the namespaces they want to search by default. This can be done by selecting and deselecting boxes in the `?search?` section of user preferences.