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Using Google to find grey literature

- Google will almost always bring you too many results
- They may not be from reputable sources
 - Who has written this? Why? When?

The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "bullying boys secondary schools". Below the search bar, the navigation menu includes "All", "News", "Images", "Videos", "Maps", and "More". The search results section shows "About 23,500,000 results (0.46 seconds)", which is circled in red. Below this, there are two search results. The first is an advertisement from "www.kidpower.org/" with the title "Bullying in Schools - 7 quick solutions for parents - kidpower.org" and a description: "Learn how to protect your child from classroom **bullying** with these 7 solutions. Upsetting experiences don't have to lead to long-term damage. Compare Plans. Donate Online." Below the title are two sub-sections: "5 Actions Adults Can Take" and "Bullying Solutions". The second search result is from "www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk" with the title "Bullying | Information & advice about all forms of bullying" and a description: "It can affect anyone and we are all potential targets - whether we are adult, child or the **bullying** is at school, in the community, at work, on-line or at home. By law,

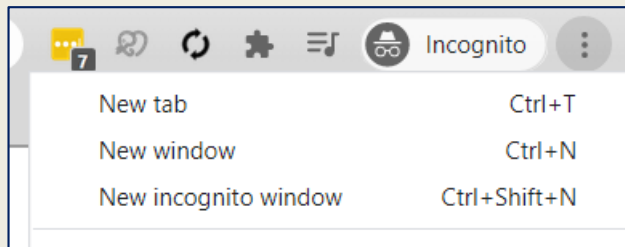
- Google is a good place to search for “grey literature” – reports, government policies, documents from non-profit/charity organisations
- These can be hard to find because Google ranks its results based on *popularity*
- How many other websites link to this page? How many people clicked on it?
- The academic sources you want for your research are likely to be *unpopular*



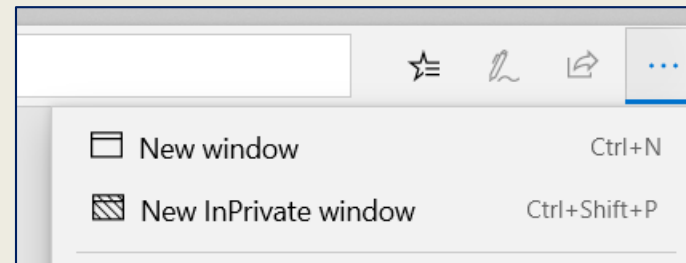
- Google also ranks its results based on *you*
- Where are you searching from (IP address)?
 - On a university network you will get more academic results and fewer ads
- Where are you searching from (in the world)?
 - You will get more results from your area and country
- Who are you?
 - If you are signed into Chrome/Gmail or using an Android device it will know all about your search history, your contacts, and possibly their search history too!



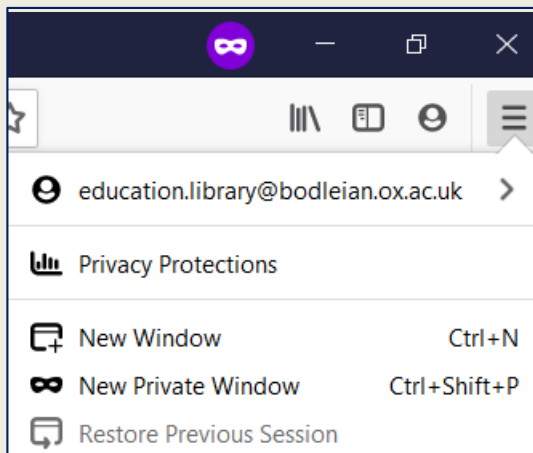
- Use Private / Incognito / InPrivate browsing and sign out of Chrome/Gmail



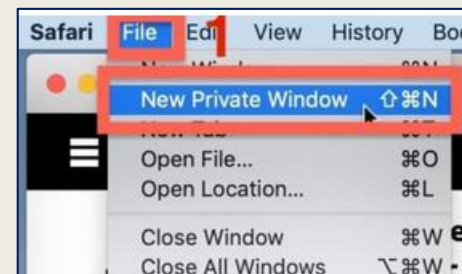
Chrome



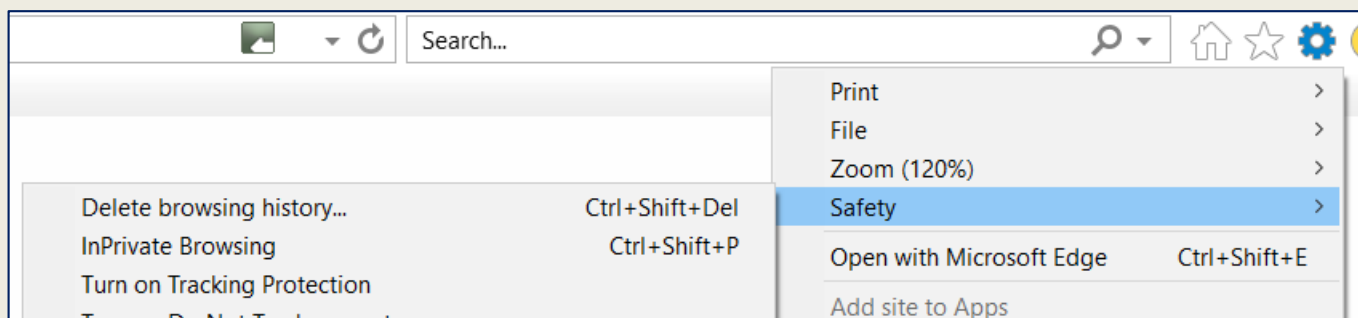
Edge



Firefox

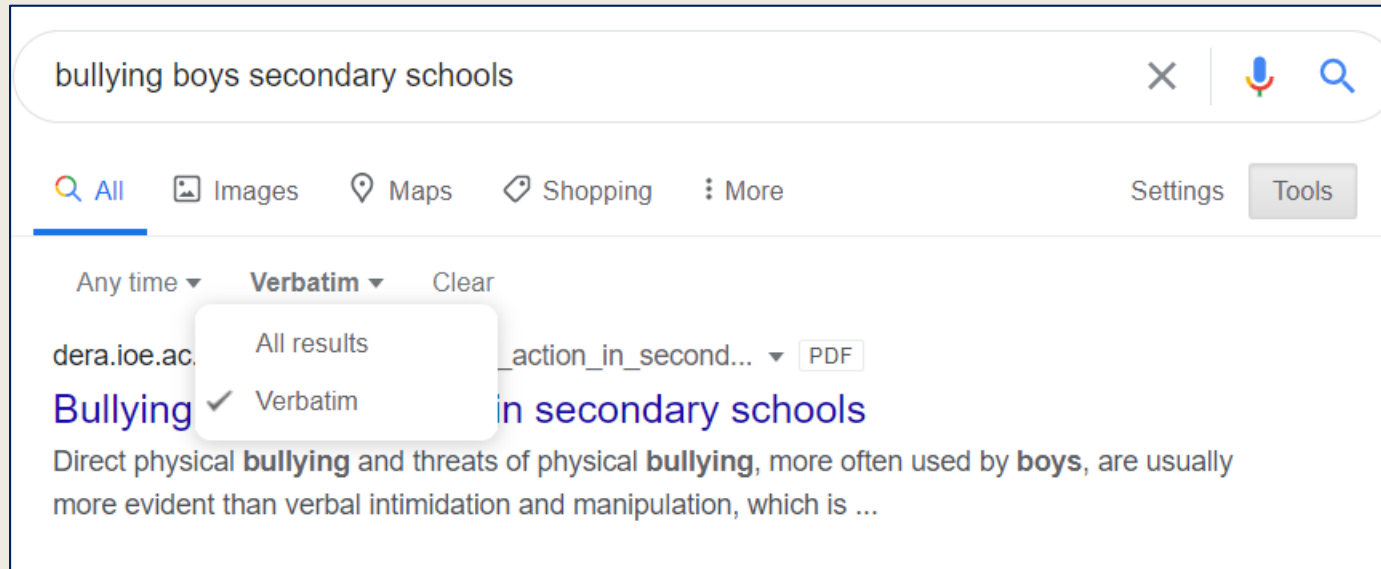


Safari

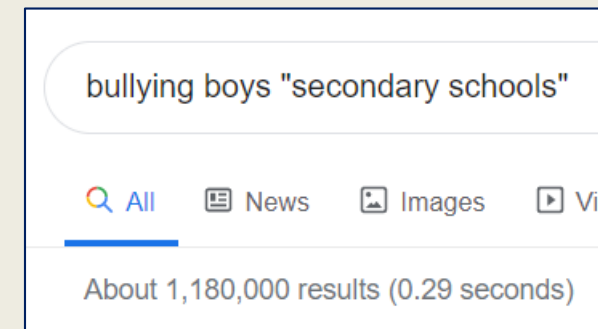
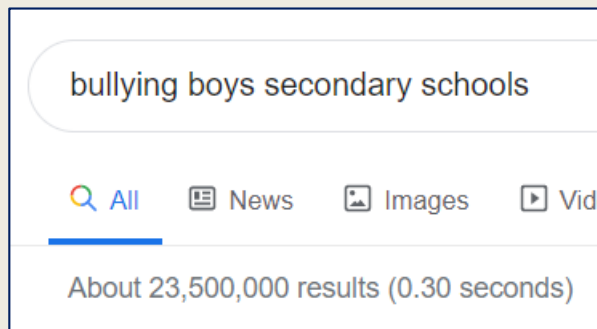


Internet Explorer

Use Tools -> All results -> Verbatim to search for exactly what you type in



Use quotation marks to search for phrases, e.g. "secondary schools"



Go to Settings -> Advanced search for extra search options

Choose a site or domain to restrict your search, e.g. .gov.uk, .ac.uk, .edu, .org

Choose a file type, e.g. .pdf, .ppt or .xls

Then narrow your results by...

language: any language

region: any region

last update: anytime

site or domain: **.gov.uk**

terms appearing: anywhere in the page

SafeSearch: Show most relevant results

file type: **Adobe Acrobat PDF (.pdf)**

usage rights: not filtered by licence

[Advanced Search](#)

