Web searching skills

1. Choose your **search engine**:
   - ➢ **Google** – the most used search engine in the world – try out the **Advanced Search** feature found in 'Settings'
   - ➢ **Bing** – Microsoft's search engine
   - ➢ **Duck Duck Go** – doesn't track your search and provides all results on one page, the same results for all users
   - ➢ **KidRex** – a safer search engine for younger students

> **Wondering about Wikipedia?**
> Check out our **help resource** to see how Wikipedia works and how you can use it in your research.

2. Choose your **keywords**:
   - ➢ Be as **specific** as you can.
   - ➢ Try to **imagine a website that has your answer**: What is the **title** of the page? What **words** appear on it? **Who** might have written it? (you can **search specific domains** that you know might be reliable, by adding the last part of the domain name e.g. '.gov.au')
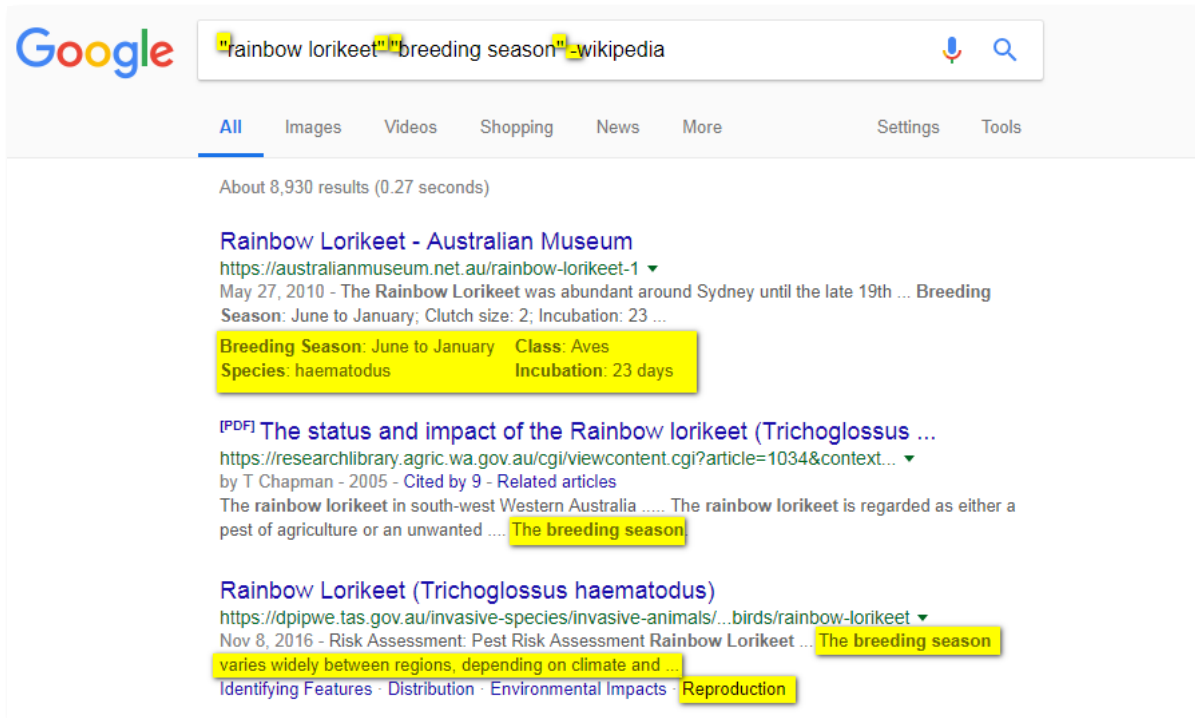   - ➢ Try using **synonyms** for your keywords to see if you can get some more useful results.

3. Use **search modifiers** to target your search, e.g.:
    ➢ Put quotation marks (**""**) around words you want to **appear together.**
    ➢ Put a hyphen (**-**) before any words you want to **exclude.**

4. Use the **Find function** to skim and scan the text in your results:
    ➢ '**Ctrl F**' for Windows, '**Command F**' for Mac
    ➢ **Search the text** on any web page, PDF or Word document.
    ➢ Type in the **keywords from your web search** to see where / how much useful information appears in each webpage.
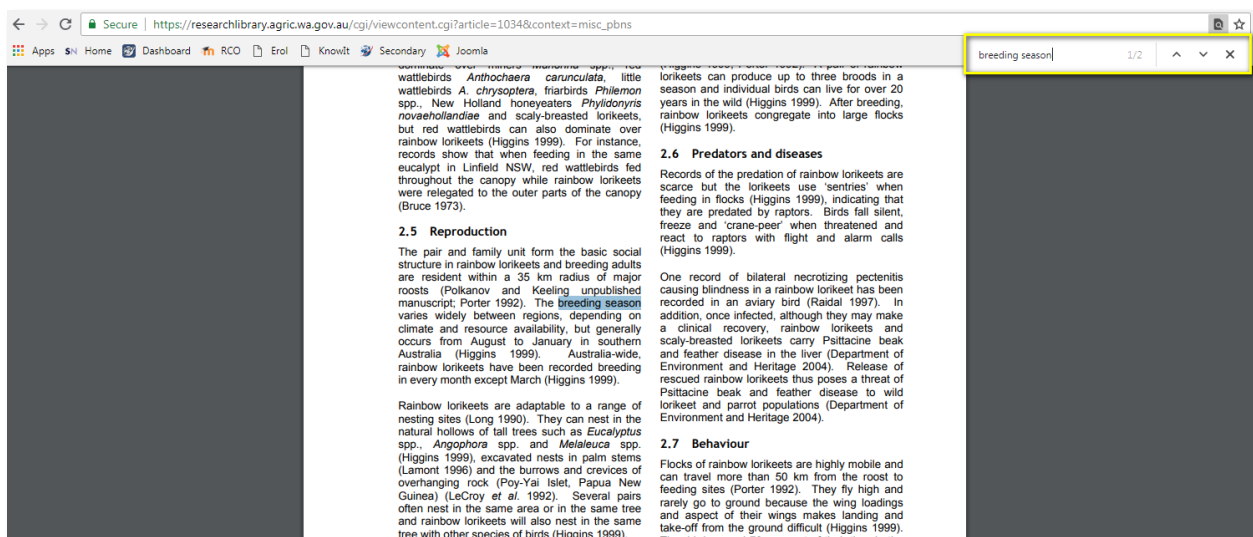
Top tip for searching the web!
*   Look at your search results critically to determine if they are reliable sources of information. See our other **help resources** to find out more about how to do this.