

8-3 Keywords and key phrases

<http://www.websuburb.com.au/HelpDesk/SearchEngines/Keywords/tabid/154/Default.aspx>

8-3.1 Be specific about key words and phraseology

Searching on Google returned the following results:

Search Term	# of Results	# 1
Hawaii	217,000,000	www.gohawaii.com
Maui	27,900,000	www.visitmaui.com
Hawaii vacation	12,400,000	www.hawaii.com
Maui vacation	4,330,000	www.kmvmaui.com
Maui scuba holiday accommodation	527,000	www.pacific-travel-guides.com

Lessons:

1. Single word searches return large numbers of generic results. “Hawaii” relates to government, university or an almost unlimited number of unrelated topics.
2. The competition in single word searches is higher.

Think about singular v. plural, abbreviations (e.g. Saint Mary v. St. Mary), common misspellings, associated words, common words, hyphenation, vernacular, cultural differences, nuances, geography (especially important for local business). Ex.

Search Term	# of Results
Hawaii vacation	12,400,000
Hawaii holiday	7,820,000

Our objective is to generate highly targeted visitors to our site because:

- Highly targeted visitors to our site are more likely to be attracted to what they see, stay longer and are more likely to “buy”.
- Poorly targeted visitors distort our traffic statistics, visiting inappropriate pages and possibly causing us to make detrimental changes to our site.

8-3.2 How many words in a key word phrase?

Research indicates that searchers use 2 – 4 word phrases in around 74% of all searches. I.e. In July 2006

Position	World Wide	Cumulative	Australia
1	2 word phrases 28.91%	29%	3 word phrases 28.74%
2	3 word phrases 27.85%	57%	2 word phrases 23.21%
3	4 word phrases 17.11%	74%	4 word phrases 21.52%
4	1 word phrases 11.43%	85%	5 word phrases 11.90%
5	5 word phrases 8.25%	94%	1 word phrases 7.71%
6	6 word phrases 3.68%	97%	6 word phrases 4.64%
7	7 word phrases 1.59%	99%	7 word phrases 1.58%

http://www.onestat.com/html/aboutus_pressbox45-search-phrases.html

Methodology: Research is based on a sample of 2 million visitors divided into 20,000 visitors of 100 countries each day.

8-3.3 Keywords for local business

If your local community is a target market then check that you have these basic steps covered in your website content:

- Email address using your own domain name. e.g. Trevor @websuburb.com.au looks more professional than some_guy@yourisp.com WebSuburb can also set up generic email addresses for you e.g. sales@websuburb.com.au
- Full address including street, suburb, state, country, phone area code, phone number and email address **on every page**. Tip! Use an image of your email address to avoid spam harvesting of your email address.
- Hours of operation
- Cities or suburbs that you serve in your local area
- About page - the primary objective of this page is to build credibility. Include you ABN, license or trade qualifications, an essay about your business, how long you have been in business, why you are the best choice for potential customers
- Links – a list of relevant and credible links. E.g. an accountant may link to the tax office website. Thus if a potential user searched for tax office and your suburb name then the site may be listed.
- List you website with the following search engines (free options)
 - Google - <https://www.google.com/local/add/login>
 - SuperPages - <https://my.superpages.com/spweb/products/business-listing>
 - Axiom - <http://bcb.axiom.com/start.pl>
 - infoUSA.com - <http://list.infousa.com/dbupdate.htm>
 - Dmoz - <http://www.dmoz.org>
 - MSN - <http://www.localeze.com/manage/>
 - CitySearch - <https://selfenroll.citysearch.com/>
 - Local.com - <http://www.local.com/advertise.aspx>
 - Yellow pages - <http://www.yellowpages.com/sp/advertise/>
 - Yahoo - <http://searchmarketing.yahoo.com/local/business.php>
- Fee based options
 - TrueLocal - <http://www.truelocal.com/getlisted.aspx>
 - Yahoo - <http://searchmarketing.yahoo.com/local/business.php>

8-3.4 Placing Key word phrases

Key word phrases should be placed near to the top of the page because:

- Readers that are searching for key words will be looking for these. If they don't spot these immediately they are likely to move on.
- Google only indexes the first 101k of a page. Key words at the end of a page may be ignored by Google.

8-3.5 Title and Headers

- Having **key words in the title** and preferably at the beginning of the title is probably **the single most important SEO technique**.
- Headings are identified by the HTML tag <H1> through to <H5>.
 - Google attaches additional weight to words in the title and headings.
 - Headings make it easier for users to scan your page and therefore enable them to make more informed choices about your page. I.e. should I stay or should I go?

8-3.6 META keyword and description tags

- META data is descriptive information about the webpage contained is specially designated “META” tags. To see the keywords in any webpage use the following menu option View → Source to open the HTML script in Notepad. Look for the META tags.

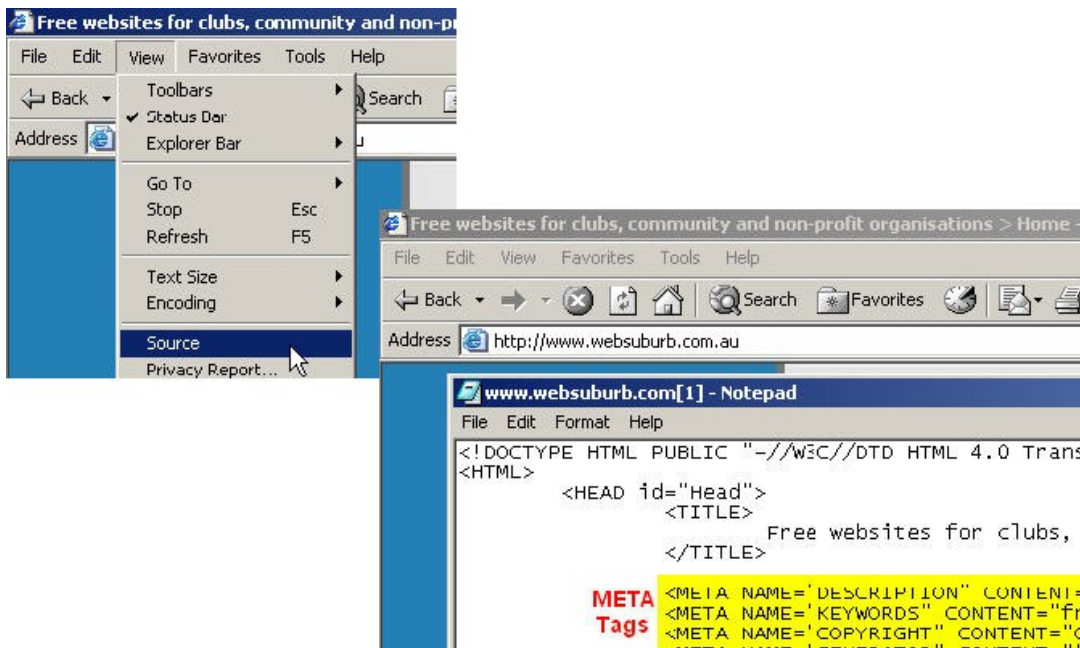


Figure: Viewing META tags in the Source of a web page

- The **META description** is important because this is used by Google in the snippet (see **Error! Reference source not found.** for snippets and 4.5.1 to update the description in the page)
- **META keywords** are not used by Google but well by some of the other search engines. We find that it is a good idea to record the specific keyword phrases that are being targeted as META keywords for subsequent evaluation of the page. (To update the META keywords see 4.5.1).
- The numerous other META targets e.g. Author, etc. are not considered important for SEO purposes.

8-3.7 Bold, italics and underlining

- Bold, italics and underlining make it easier for your user to grasp the content of a page and therefore Google attaches additional weight to words that have been highlighted in this fashion.
- **By far the more important reason is making it easier and attractive for users.**

8-3.8 Linking text

- Google attaches extra weight to words contained within the link attribute E.g. Free websites for clubs.
- Especially for internal links it is important to get vivid descriptive text containing keywords in the linking text.
- Don't use "Click here"; this is a search term that is not frequently used by users!

8-3.9 Alt, title and image file names

Firstly, do a search on <http://images.google.com>.

Google identifies images related to your search by the context in which they have been placed. Image context is derived, inter alia, from the:

- Image name. Separate individual words in the image name with a "-" sign rather than underscore "_" because Google interprets these differently when indexing.

File Name	Google Interpretation
Narrabeen-golf-academy.jpg	narrabeen golf academy.jpg
Narrabeen_golf_academy.jpg	narrabeengolfacademy.jpg

The word "Narrabeen" is more likely to be indexed in the first instance than the second.

- Alt attribute – the specific purpose of the ALT tag is to describe images. The ALT tag will pop up and give the user a better experience



Figure: Image ALT attribute showing pop up comment

- Title attribute – works in the same way as the ALT attribute for page elements other than images e.g. tables, forms or links. E.g. email and WebMail setup will display like this in the browser.



Figure: Title attribute in link reference showing pop up comment