Add the MIT Search Box to your site

On this page:

Add a Simple Search Box

Related Links

Google Search Appliance discontinued

Google has discontinued their enterprise Google Search Appliance (GSA) product and will not be renewing MIT's license for our on-campus appliance. As of the end of June 2018, the Google Search Appliance will no longer be available to MIT web site owners for custom search. In its place, we recommend web site owners use the MIT Search Box (search.mit.edu) for basic MIT-branded search, or a Google Custom Search Engine (CSE) if a more integrated experience is needed.

Add a Simple Search Box

You can add a search box to your website to help visitors find content on your site. You can restrict the search to a specified directory or search the entire MIT website. The search box will look and behave like this:

1. Insert the following HTML into your web page where you want the search box to appear (parameters in bold can be customized):

   ```html
   <div><form method="get" action="http://search.mit.edu/search">
   <input type="text" name="q" size="32" maxlength="255" value=""/>
   <input type="submit" name="btnG" value="Search"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="site" value="mit"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="client" value="mit"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="output" value="xml_no_dtd"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="ie" value="UTF-8"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="as_dt" value="i"/>
   <input type="hidden" name="as_sitesearch" value="your_URL"/></form>
   </div>
   ``

   An example of the `your_URL` format would be web.mit.edu/newsoffice or itinfo.mit.edu. Do not use a final slash on your URL.

2. Customize the following parameters:

   - `name="q" size="32"` Sets the width (in number of characters) of the search box. You can change the size to suit your site's layout, but don't change the `maxlength` value.
   - `name="btnG" value="Search"` The text that appears on the search button. (e.g., "Search News Office")
   - `name="as_sitesearch" value="your_URL"` Searches will only include pages in the specified directory e.g., `name="as_sitesearch" value="web.mit.edu/newsoffice"`
     - You must specify the complete canonical name of the host server followed by the path of the directory.
     - E.g., `web.mit.edu/newsoffice not web/newsoffice`
     - If the ("\") character is at the end of the web directory path specified, then only files within that directory will be searched and files in sub-directories will not be considered.
     - E.g., `web.mit.edu/newsoffice to include sub-directories`
     - `web.mit.edu/newsoffice/ to exclude sub-directories`
   - `as_sitesearch` allows you to specify one directory (and all its sub-directories) as the domain to be searched; you cannot specify multiple disparate directories using this option. If your site spans multiple sites or directories, consider setting up your own Google Custom Search Engine (CSE).
   - `as_dt` allows you to specify the domain to be searched. If you want the search feature on your site to search the entire MIT website, delete the `as_sitesearch` and `as_dt` parameters.

Related Links

- Adding a Search Box to your MIT website