Introduction to Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

Improving the visibility of our website in search engines' organic search results.

Organic vs. Paid Search

	Google	online degree in georgia	٩
"Paid" S	earch Adword	ut 25,300,000 results (0.32 seconds)	
~20%	6 of Clicks	related to online degree in georgia Why these ads?	Ads - Why these ads?
	Images Maps Videos News Shopping More	Attend School at an Institute for Online Learning. Get Started! University Degrees Phoenix.edu www.phoenix.edu/ Take Flexible Courses Online or at Local Campuses. Learn More Today.	DeVry University® Degrees www.devry.edu/ 5 Colleges. One Focus. Your Career Success. Online & Campus. Get Info! Online Degree Programs www.gcu.edu/BusAdmin 1 (855) 275 0712 Accredited Online University Enroll at GCU today! Liberty University Online www.libertyonlinedegrees.com/Georgia
	nic Search % of Clicks	orgia ONmyLINE • georgiaonmyline.org/ orgia ONmyLINE is a helpful resource for anyone wanting to begin a degree ram online, as well as current students seeking an online course to fit into an • begrees - Courses - Education - Institutions Georgia Southern University online.georgiasouthem.edu/ Georgia Southern University offers undergraduate and graduate online degree programs in business, education, healthcare and more. Learn more about + Bachelor of General Studies - Ed.S. in Teaching & Learning - MBA - BS/IT University of Georgia: Distance Learning Portal www.distance.uga.edu/ Adult Education Online Master of Education (M.Ed.) Degree Program. The University of Georgia's Online M.Ed. in Adult Education is specifically designed to	1 (855) 511 9776 Elite Online College Degrees. Get Free Info - It's Fast & Easy! APU - Online University www.apus.edu/ Earn a college degree 100% online. Respected. Accredited. Affordable. Belhaven-Online Degree online.belhaven.edu/ Accredited Bachelor & Master Degree Programs- 100% Online. Apply Today! Earn a College Degree www.collegedegreestoday.com/ Get Matched to the Right Online College Degree in Just Minutes!

The Purpose of a Search Engine

1. Crawling and Indexing

Through links, search engines' automated robots, called "crawlers," or "spiders" can reach the many billions of interconnected documents. Once the engines find these pages, they decipher the code and store select pieces in massive hard drives, to be recalled later.

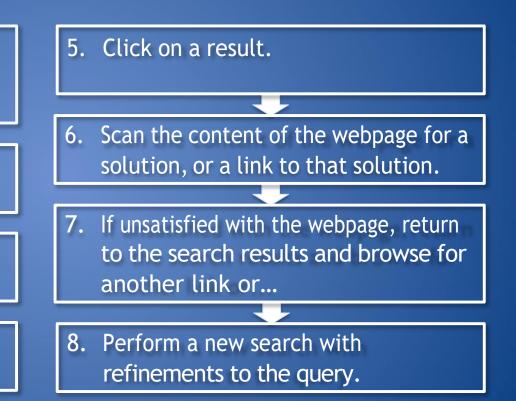
2. Retrieving Answers

When you perform a search, search engines scour the billions of stored documents and do two things - first, return those results that are the most *relevant* to your query, and second, rank those results in order of perceived *importance*.

How People Interact with Search Engines

The Search Process:

- 1. Experience the need for an answer, solution or piece of information.
- 2. Formulate the need in a string of words or phrases (the query).
- 3. Enter the query in the search engine and execute.
- 4. Browse through the results for a match.



How People Interact with Search Engines

1. Navigational Queries

Navigational searches are performed with the intent of surfing directly to a specific website.

2. Informational Queriess

Informational searches are primarily non-transaction-oriented; information itself is the goal and no interaction beyond clicking and reading is required.

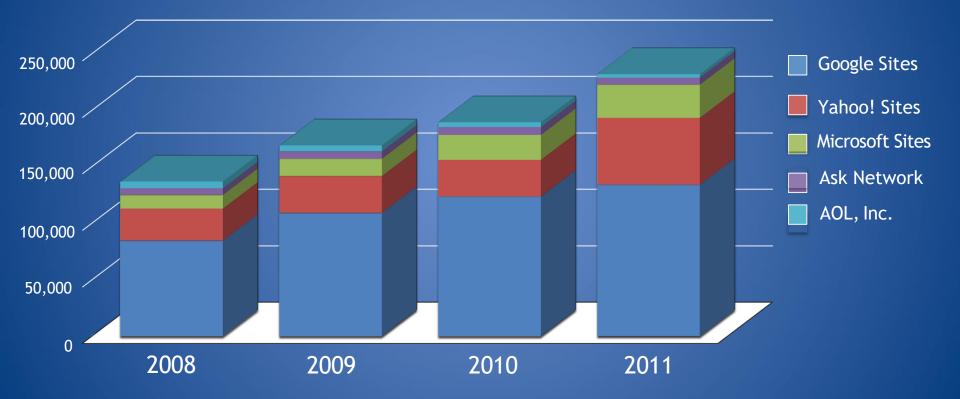
3. Transactional Queries

Transactional searches don't necessarily require a purchase to be made. Signing up for a free trial or requesting a pamphlet are considered transactional.

When visitors type a query into a search box and land on our site, will they be satisfied with what they find?

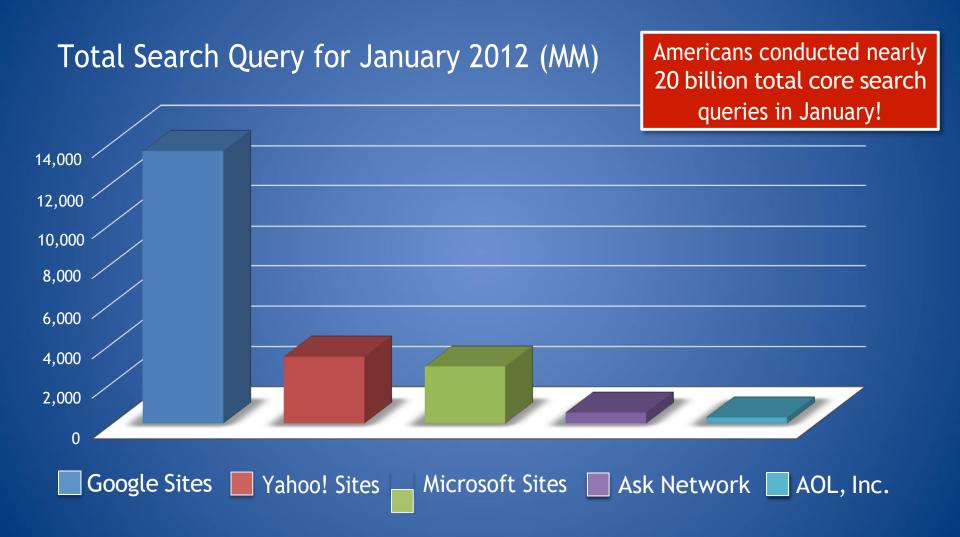


U.S. Search Volume Growth (MM)



Data via Comscore Qsearch http://www.comscore.com

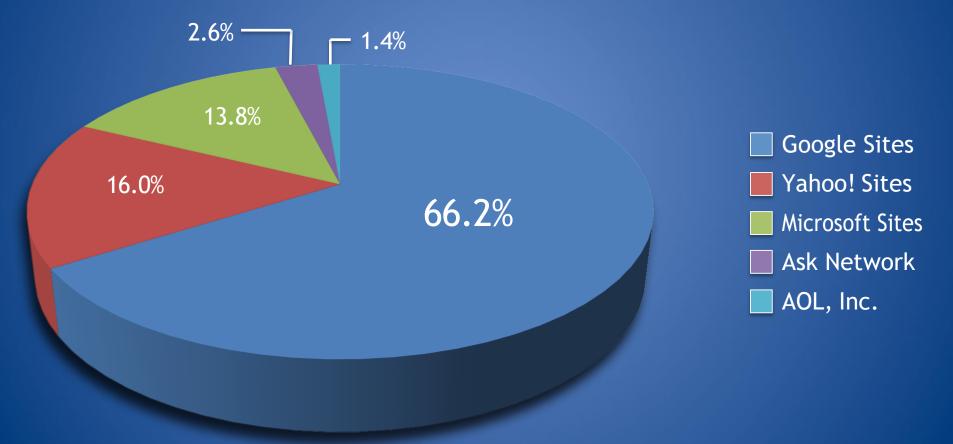
Why SEO?



Data via Comscore Qsearch http://www.comscore.com



Total Search Share for January 2012 (%)

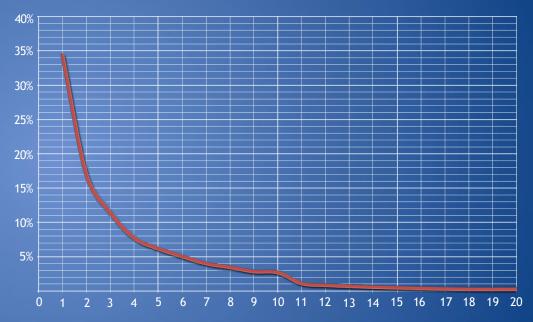


Data via Comscore Qsearch http://www.comscore.com



Organic Click Through Rate (CTR)

Google Result	Impressions	Percentage
1	2,834,806	34.35%
2	1,399,502	16.96%
3	942,706	11.42%
4	638,106	7.73%
5	510,721	6.19%
6	416,887	5.05%
7	331,500	4.02%
8	286,118	3.47%
9	235,197	2.85%
10	223,320	2.71%



http://insights.chitika.com/2010/the-value-of-google-result-positioning/

When building or modifying your website - whether your adding images, restructuring your links, or changing your written content - always base your decisions on improving the *user's experience*.

On Page SEO

Basic Practices

- Title Tag
- Meta Keywords
- Meta Description

Structure

- URL
- Subdomains
- Navigation

Usability

- Image Alt Tag
- Files Names
- Media Description

Content

- Anchor Text
- Heading Tags
- Keywords

On Page SEO - What does the search engine see?

How the User sees the webpage.

User Services

ITS Home

ITS Service Catalog IT Training TechFees Students Faculty/Staff Service Desk Support & Desktop Area Classroom Support & Multimedia Web Innovations rformance Indicators

Infrastructure Services

About Infrastructure stems Administration Telecommunications Networking computer Operations Iram Development & Applications

Information Techno

The University of West Georgia's Office of Information Tec providing members of the University of West Georgia comr and support needed to be successful and productive. Infor organization consisting of highly skilled and motivated comp with expertise spanning a broad range of current technolo as an advocate for technology on campus and works closel to address related issues.

ITS provides technology direction and support to the UWG and students are encouraged to take advantage of the ma available through UWG's Information Technology Services.



```
</div>
<div id="contentBody">
<h1>
Information Technology Services
</h1>
The University of West Coordial
```

The University of West Georgia's Office of Information Tech successful and productive. Information Technology Services is a servi technology. Information Technology Services acts as an advocate for t

ITS provides technology direction and support to the UWG ca Information Technology Services.


```
<br />>
     <img alt="" width="487" height="323" src="/assetsDept/its/d
   </div><!-- end contentBody -->
</div><!-- end wrapper -->
<div id="footer container">
 <div id="footer left">
   <a href="http://maps.google.com/?daddr=1601+Maple+Street,Ca
   © 2012 University of West Georgia. All rights reserved
   </div><!--end footer left-->
 <div id="footer right">
   <1i>>
      <a href="../index contact.php">Contact Us</a>
    <11>
```

Maps & Directions

How the Search Engine sees the webpage.

1.Title Tag:

Make sure the title tag on each page of the site is unique and descriptive. It should be no longer than 65 characters. If possible, place your keywords in the title tag.

2. Meta Keywords:

These keywords no longer carry much weight with search engines. You can use the meta keywords to help emphasize the content keywords you would like to focus on.

3. Meta Description:

Search engines use the meta description tag to describe your web page. Make sure every page has a unique description. It should be no longer than 160 characters.

On Page SEO - Basic Practices

Ad related to university of west georgia technology group

Why this ad?

Electronics Repair Shop | wgatech.com

www.wgatech.com/ Smartphones, Computers, Gadgets Virus Removal, Free Estimates

928 South Park Street, Suite F, Carrollton (678) 664-0486 - Directions

ITS | Strategic Plan - The University of West Georgia

www.westga.edu/its/index_5256.php

UWG's technological support environment is decentralized with many colleges and divisions having their own technology groups that effectively deploy ...

Executive in Residence - The University of West Georgia www.westga.edu > RCOB Home > Dean's Office

In 2005, Allen authored Inside the Minds: Technology Enabled Marketing – a as President of the newly formed BellSouth Community Technologies group, ...

UWG - OJDLA - The University of West Georgia

www.westga.edu/~distance/ojdla/

5 days ago – Advanced Technologies for Distance Education Certificate Program two separate offerings of the course and the distinct groups of faculty.

Faculty/Staff Profile | The University of West Georgia

www.westga.edu/show bio.php?emp id=10709

He is also a tenured Associate Professor of Instructional Technology and Design at the University of West Georgia (UWG) and the 2012 President-elect of the ...

Title Tag Example

Meta Description Example

On Page SEO - Basic Practices



On Page SEO - Basic Practices

🥝 ⇐ Close Page		
[Add/Remove Left Sidebar]	[Add/Remove Right Sidebar]	Gadd/Edit/Order/Remove Extra Content]
WestGeorgia	WestGeorgia.	
	Meta Descript	tion
[Edit Meta Description] :	Meta Keyworc	is the second
 [Edit Meta Keywords] : [Edit SEO Page Title] : 		
	Title Tag	
Tuition and Fe	es	
C [Edit Text]	Title	
Open Footer Columns)		
PROGRAMS	S LIFE AT WEST	
Bachelor's Degrees Master's Degrees	Explore West What's For Dinner?	Tuition and Fees Scholarships
Doctoral Degrees	Where Can I Live? UWG Mobile App	Out of State Students
[Add/Remove Footer Logos]	And the second second	

On Page SEO - Usability

Usability is a reference to how easy it is for a user to accomplish what she wants on a website.

1. Image Alt Text:

A place where you can provide more information about what is in the image and where you can target keywords.

2. File Names:

Search engines look at the filename to see whether it provides clues to the content of the file.

3. Media Description:

A description helps the user and search engines better understand the content contained in your video, animation, etc.

On Page SEO - Usability



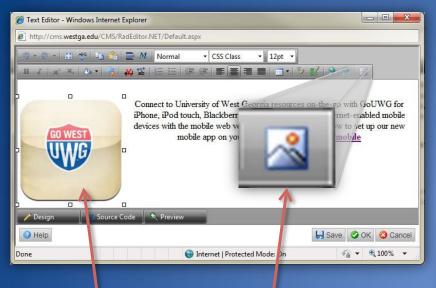


Video Transcription

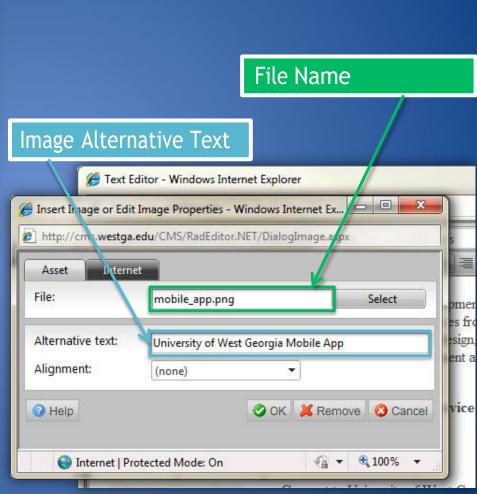
Hi guys. I'm Rhea Drysdale, CEO of Outspoken Media, and we are an internet marketing company that specializes in SEO, reputation management, link development, and social media marketing. I'm here today in the SEOmoz office, because our team is attending SMX Advanced. Many of you probably know of Outspoken Media because we're doing live blog coverage of the conference, and I hope to meet many of you here today.

Examples from: http://www.seomoz.org

On Page SEO - Usability



While the image is selected in the 'Edit Text' window (indicated by the white boxes); click the Insert/Edit Image button in the toolbar.



1. URL's:

Keeping your URL's short and descriptive of your content will improve the user experience and lead to better crawling of your website by search engines. (Currently there is no way to change the URL in OpenText)

2. Subdomains:

A subdomain can look more authoritative to users and provide a reasonable choice to include keywords in the URL. <u>Unfortunately, they have the potential to be treated separately from the primary domain when it comes to trust value.</u>

3. Navigation:

Ordering your navigation in a logical and concise manner will assist the user (they will find the site easier to use) and search engines award greater ranking based on increased subject relevance.

On Page SEO - Structure

URL

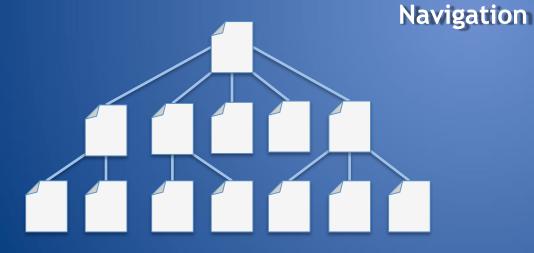
www.westga.edu/its/wireless-login.php

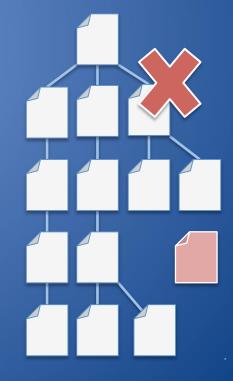
Subdomains

http://uwgonline.westga.edu

www.westga.edu/its/v66613-thjukl.php







1. Anchor Text:

The actual text placed in a link. If the text is keyword-rich, it will do more for your rankings in the search engines.

2. Heading Tags:

These tags are designed to indicate a headline hierarchy on the webpage. Search engines show a slight preference for keywords appearing in heading tags.

3. Content Keywords:

One of the most important on page SEO practices. When a user performs a query, the more relevant a keyword (or phrase) is to the query, the higher ranking the webpage will be in the search engine's results.

Anchor Text

An active international student organization consists of...

If you are interested, slick here...

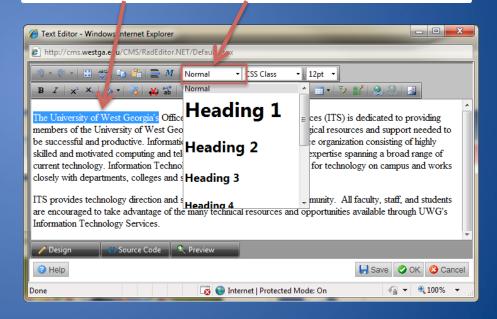
Completed <u>application</u> with a non-refundable fee.

...and the Student Handbook, as

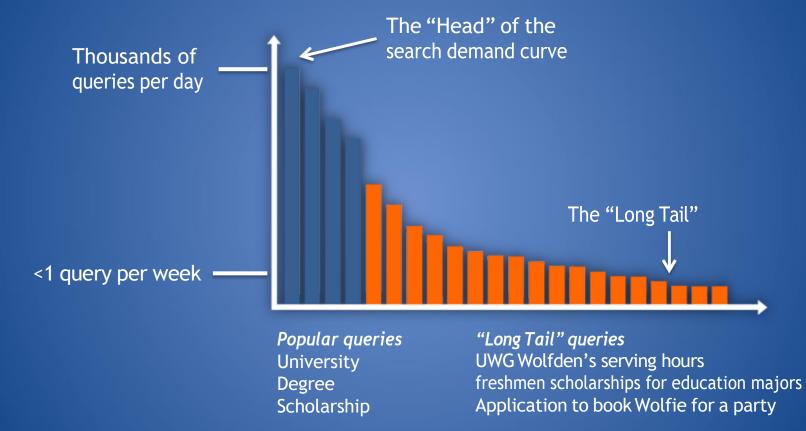
amended.

Heading Tags

After selecting the text (indicated by the blue highlight), use the drop-down to choose the header you would like to apply



Keywords - Short Tail / Long Tail



Keywords - Research

- 1. Make a list of one- to three- word phrases related to your website.
- 2. Produce synonyms that might be used by potential students.
- 3. Create a directory of all the people, projects, ideas, and companies connected to your site.
- 4. Review your current site and extract current key phrases.
- 5. Review websites associated with UWG and / or media sites to see what phrases they use.

- 6. List all your program names, products, and other services provided.
- 7. Have your department imagine they are potential students. What would they type in to find you?
- 8. Ask students and people outside your department what they would search for.
- 9. Review your competitors' websites and see what key phrases they use.
- 10. Consider including your competitor's non-branded terms for use in your keyword list.

Keywords - Google Adwords

The Best Keywords Are:

High Volume	Save all Keyword ideas (100) 1 - 50 of 100 • • •			
(many searches/month)	Keyword	Competition	Global Monthly Searches ?	Local Monthly Searches 🧃
	study abroad scholarships -	High	27,100	18,100
	scholarship search 🔻	High	27,100	18,100
Low Composition	📄 colleges in georgia 👻	Medium	165,000	135,000
Low Competition	georgia colleges 🔻	Medium	165,000	135,000
(weak sites in the top 10)	scholarships for hispanics *	High	33,100	33,100
	scholarship applications 👻	Medium	135,000	90,500
	scholarships for graduate students *	High	33,100	22,200
Lligh Value	online college 🔻	High	1,220,000	823,000
High Value	🥅 financial aid 👻	Low	1,500,000	1,220,000
(Large % of visitors convert)	scholarships for college students *	High	60,500	49,500

https://adwords.google.com/select/KeywordToolExternal

"Good" Content VS. "GREAT" Content

Satisfies the searcher's basic information requirements

Written by a human and not duplicated elsewhere

Long enough to fulfill basic needs of engines for depth/uniqueness

Grammatically correct; free of spelling / punctuation errors

Surprises and delights the searcher by being remarkable

Produced by extraordinary writers and designers

May leverage video, audio, graphics & photos to convey a unique, shareable experience.

Produced by extraordinary writers and designers

Off Page SEO

Links

- Link influence on search engines
- Link Value

Other

- Sitemap
- DMOZ
- robots.txt
- Google mini

Social Media

- Social Media Sites
- Indirect Influence of Social Media

Off Page SEO - Links

Link Influence on search engines

PageRank algorithm

- External links on a webpage can be interpreted as votes.
- Initially, all votes are considered equal.
- Over the course of time, pages which receive more votes become more important.
- More important pages cast more important votes.
- Votes per Page = Page Importance / Number of Links.



Passable

PageRank

Passable

PageRank

Passable

PageRank

Link Value

- **1. Anchor Text:** Search engines use the anchor text to help it understand what the page receiving the link is about.
- 2. Relevance: Links that originate from sites/pages on a closely related topic are worth more.
- **3. Authority:** A site with higher authority will pass along more PageRank. However, search engines will not tell you which sites they consider authoritative.
- 4. Trust: Trust of a websites takes into account whether the linking page or the website is easy or difficult for spammers to infiltrate. The trust level of a site is based on how many clicks away it is from one or more 'seed' sites.

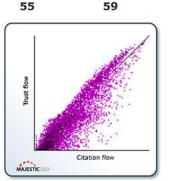
Off Page SEO - Links

www.majesticseo.com

www.google.com/webmasters/tools/

Domains	Links 🔺	Linked pages
elearninglearning.com	433,257	3
wikispaces.com	82,957	168
ihigh.com	19,240	2
uwgsports.com	17,591	7
facebook.com	12,222	197
oclc.org	9,068	8
blogspot.com	8,779	459
aolstalker.com	6,654	3
wordpress.com	6,206	212

Referring Domains	External Backlinks	
7,826	77,962	
Educational Ref. Backlinks: 3,150		
Governmental Ref. Backlinks: 122		
Educational Ref. Domains: 797		
Governmental Ref. Domains: 37		
Referring IP addresses: 6,235		
Referring Class C subnets: 5,158		
Indexed URLs: 35,210		



Trust flow @

Citation flow @



Benefits of Social Media

1. It Cost Nothing to Get Started For just a little bit of time and creativity, you can create department and personal pages and keep students informed of new programs.

2. Blogs are Simple to Create You can create targeted content that focuses on your SEO content keywords.

- 3. Results Can Be Faster Than Traditional Websites You have the opportunity to "go viral" with the content you post using social media.
- 4. Social Media Posts and Profiles are Included in Search Results All social media posts and profiles are opportunities to get your site noticed by search engines.

http://www.submitedge.com/blog/15-seo-benefits-of-socialmedia/

Benefits of Social Media (continued)

5. You Can Get Ranked Higher

Each time your content is shared, it creates a backlink to your content. This gives you more chances to have PageRank votes passed to your content.

6. There are Lots of Options Variety is the spice of life.

7. Social Media is Easy To Use

You don't need to dedicate a lot of time to social media - work on posting quality content and let other users do the work for you by sharing it with their friends.

8. It's an Additional Platform for Content

Westga.edu is usually a static, brochure website.With social media, you will be able to produce quality content that relates to you and your department.

http://www.submitedge.com/blog/15-seo-benefits-of-socialmedia/

Benefits of Social Media (continued)

9. Builds Brand Awareness

As you become more visible, as long as you continue to produce quality content, you will soon become an authority figure in your niche.

10. Has Unlimited Reach

By participating in social media, you will be able to reach users that would have never stumbled upon the university's website.

11.Puts Followers to Work for You Let other users share your quality content.

> http://www.submitedge.com/blog/15-seo-benefits-of-socialmedia/

Off Page SEO - Other

XML / HTML Sitemap

A sitemap is a list of pages of a web site accessible to search engines and users.

Benefits of a Sitemap

- 1. Helps improve how often and the manner in which search engines crawl your website.
- 2. Search engines use additional URL's to 'discover' pages they didn't know about.
- 3. Verification / registration of XML Sitemaps may indicate positive trust / authority signals.
- 4. A HTML sitemap can further help a user navigate your website.

Off Page SEO - Social Media

XML / HTML Sitemap



XML Sitemap <url> <loc>http://www.magneticone.com/store/X.Cart <lastmod>2007-12-14T14:43:42+00:00</lastmod> <priority>1.0</priority> </url> <url> <loc>http://www.magneticone.com/store/osCom <lastmod>2007-12-14T14:43:42+00:00</lastmod> <priority>1.0</priority> </url>

Off Page SEO - Other

DMOZ - Open Directory Project



"The Open Directory Project is the largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the Web. It is constructed and maintained by a vast, global community of volunteer editors."

Off Page SEO - Other

robots.txt

This is a file that is located on the root level of our domain.

Benefits of robots.txt

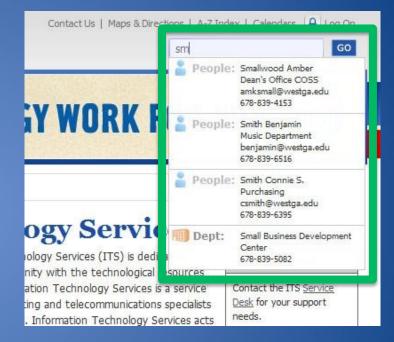
- 1. Prevents search engines from accessing nonpublic parts of our website.
- 2. Block search engines from accessing out pages of code.
- 3. Avoid the indexation of duplicate content on our website, such as "print" or "mobile" versions of webpages.
- 4. Auto-discover Sitemaps.

Off Page SEO - Other

Google Mini

Not everyone who enters our website is coming through the front door (homepage). The Google mini appliance helps user's navigate deeper into our website without having to click their way through to the page they need.

Within the Google mini appliance, we have total control over page placement by keyword. This is a great internal opportunity to make your department's website easier to find from anywhere in www.westga.edu



Too much of a good thing can be bad for you, especially in SEO.

- DO NOT over 'keyword' your content. Your content should be easy to read and not stuffed with the same terms over and over again.
- DO NOT make sentences into anchor text. This could cause confusion on your site and make your content difficult to read.
- DO NOT focus on keywords that are not associated with your site. This is a big no-no. If you try and get ranking in a popular keyword (such as 'Free') and it is not associated with your website, the search engine could black-list the site.

SEO Software

2012 SEO Software Product Comparisons



SEO Software

SEO Software Key Functionality

- Stores and organizes your keyword objectives by project and page
- Finds top ranked pages
- Performs comparison analysis to rank your page against other pages
- Make specific suggestions about how to improve you website
- Identifies potential inbound link opportunities.

SEO Software Reviews:

- www.topseos.com/rankings-and-reviews-of-best-seo-software
- <u>seo-software-review.toptenreviews.com</u>

You cannot methodically improve what you cannot measure.

Define your Baseline

Use information from the below listed to establish a baseline of data points:

- Organic search traffic by search engine and keyword
- Major keywords that are driving traffic by search engines
- A breakdown of which sections are getting current organic search traffic by search engine and keyword

To further enhance you baseline, include the following:

- Identify poorly performing pages
- Identify the best performing pages (in terms of traffic and conversion)
- Track search engine crawler activity on the site
- Determine the number of indexed pages and whether they are getting search traffic
- Identify any error pages and external sites linking to these pages

Google			
Webmaster Tools			
Dashboard	Content Keywords	Significance	
Messages Configuration Health Traffic Optimization	1. students (4 variants) 2. course (4 variants) 3. education (4 variants) 4. university (4 variants) 5. georgia (8 variants)		
Sitemaps Remove URLs HTML Improvements Content Keywords Other Resources	6: class (3 variants) 7: art (4 variants) 8: musc 9: west (3 variants)	Ξ	HT No Yo po
▶ Labs	10. faculty (3 variants) 11. studies (5 variants)		Pa

Content Keywords

Webmaster Tools

Non-informative Title Tags

HTML Improvements

/our title provides users and search engines with useful information about your site. Text contained in title tags can appear in search results pages, and relevant, descriptive text

Down	load	this	tab	le

Pages with non-informative title tags	Pages
New Page 1	/biology/prtsynth/page1.html
PowerPoint Presentation	/~adel/leagueofwomenvoters/egyptinthe21stcentury.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/Intro%20to%20lt%20adds%20to%20me.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/LARoadtoWHLP.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/MulipleIntellPPt.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/ReadingRoadtoWH.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/STudent%20ltr.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/ScienceLPRoadtoWH.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/Webquest%20lt%20all%20adds%20to%20me.htm
New Page 1	/~anazzal/Portfolios/KimScasnyFall05/Portfolio/hurricanerubric.htm

www.google.com/webmasters/tools

Webmaster Tools

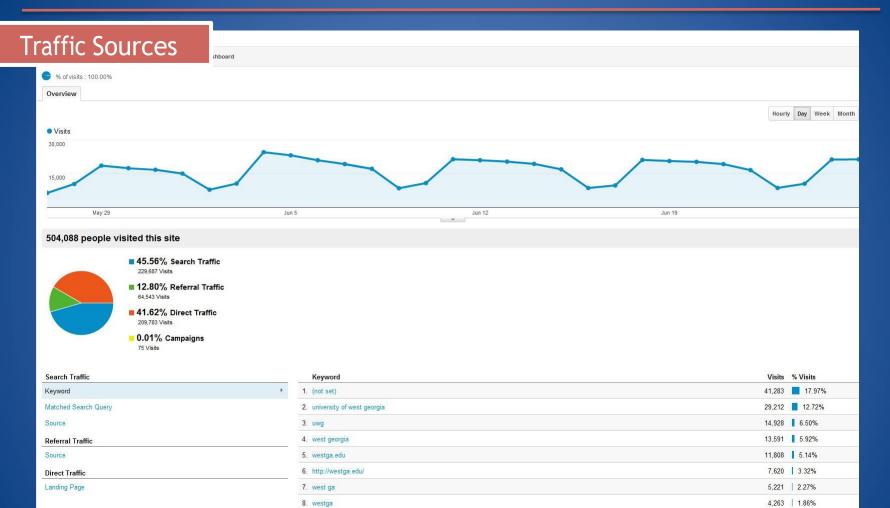


www.google.com/webmasters/tools/



Demographics	Language V	sits % Visits	
Language >	1. en-us 481.	377 96	5. <mark>49%</mark>
Country / Territory	2. en 18.	074 3.59%	
City	3. en-gb 1,	016 0.20%	
System	4. en_us	403 0.08%	
Browser	5. zh-cn	388 0.08%	
Operating System	6. ko	321 0.06%	
Service Provider	7. es	262 0.05%	

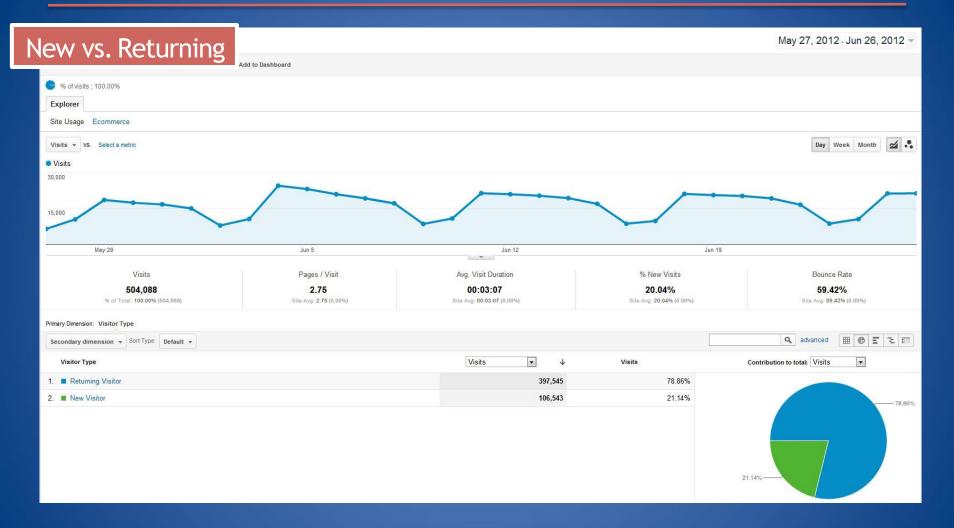
www.google.com/analytics/



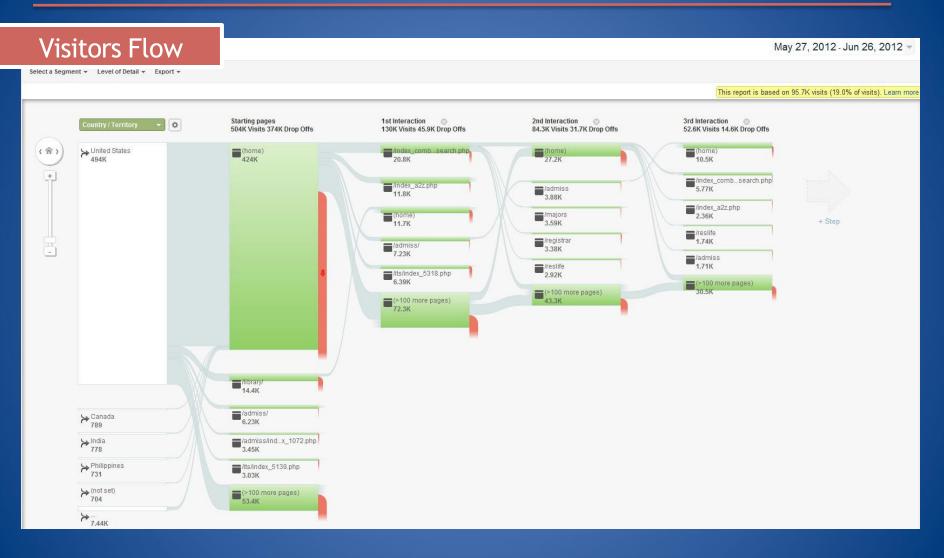
www.google.com/analytics/

9. www.westga.edu

4,219 1.84%



www.google.com/analytics/



www.google.com/analytics/

Further Information

- http://www.google.com/webmasters/tools
- http://www.google.com/analytics
- https://adwords.google.com/select/KeywordToolExternal
- http://www.seomoz.org/tools
- http://www.lynda.com

Handley, Ann, and C.C. Chapman. *Content Rules: How to Create Killer Blogs*, *Podcasts,Videos, Ebooks,Webinars (and More) that Engage Customers and Ignite Your Business*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2011

Enge, Eric, Stephan Spencer, Jessie Stricchiola, and Rand Fishkin. *The Art of SEO: Mastering Search Engine Optimization*. O'Reilly Media, 2012