

Finding Public Domain Works in Other Languages

Using Advanced Public Domain Search Strategies

I've been experimenting with a new Search Strategy for finding Public Domain works that I would consider somewhat advanced. It involves taking roads less traveled, at least for English-speaking researchers. The results from these experiments have been remarkable and have some HUGE implications in working with Public Domain works on a global scale.

The insights for this strategy came primarily from two sources—including one which was rather unconventional. The first source for this strategy was a dream where I was interviewing Joe Vitale, the great marketer and hypnotic copywriter. In this very vivid dream from over a year ago, I was sitting across the table from Joe Vitale. I asked Joe if there were some techniques I could use to further my research skills in locating Public Domain works. Joe answered very clearly and quickly. He told me that the answer I was looking for would be found in foreign languages, and he proceeded to give me six specific strategies for expanding my Public Domain research into those areas. While I DID write those strategies down the day of the dream, busyness with other projects caused me to forget about them completely until I was reminded of the strategies once again through a second source of inspiration...a calendar.

I've been working on a series of products for another niche including a calendar that is translated into seven different languages (<http://www.WorldDiversityCalendar.com>). As I worked on the various language sections of the project, I found myself wondering how you would say "Public Domain" in those other languages (one of the six strategies Joe shared). After a little digging I found my answers. I typed one of the foreign language translations for "Public Domain" into Google to see what would happen. The results surprised me. I felt like I had opened the door to the Secret Garden. Of course, I cannot speak any of those languages, but over the course of

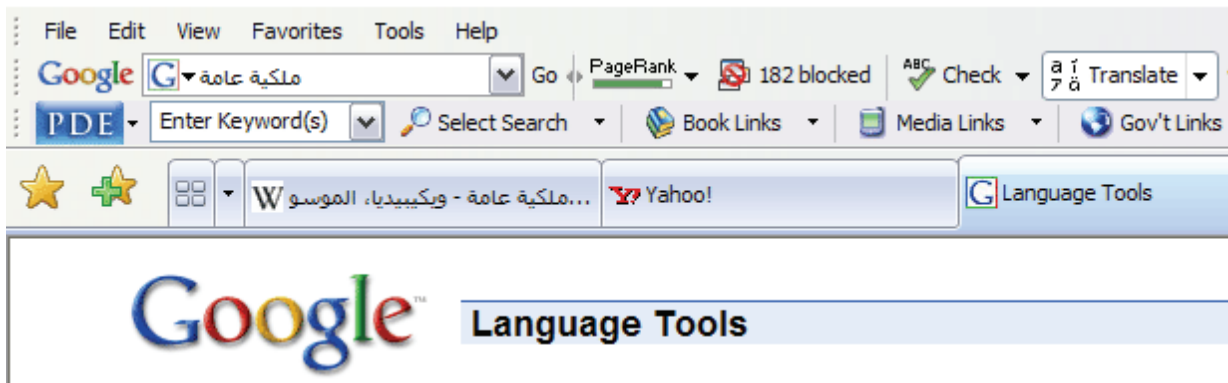
experimenting and testing, I developed a cool, little strategy that will help you broaden the scope of your Public Domain research into other languages, even if you don't speak those languages.

To begin, let me share an important piece of information you'll need for your research—language translations of the keyword phrase “Public Domain.” I've selected eight of the more prevalent languages to begin with: German, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese and Arabic.

The following chart displays the language, the phrase “Public Domain” translated into that language, and the most common country code extension for websites.

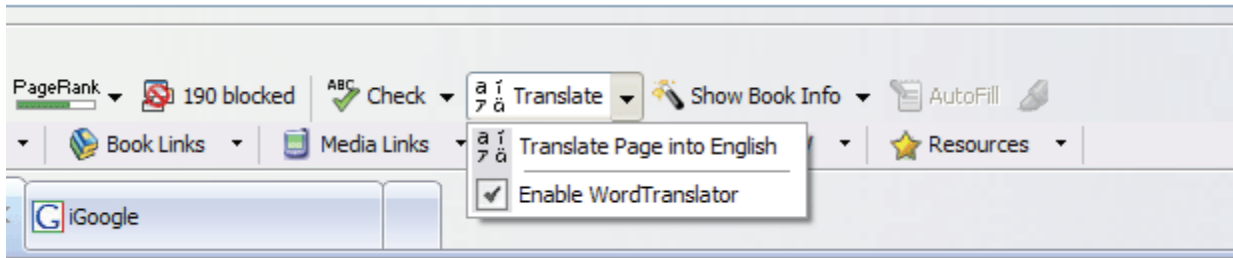
English:	Public Domain	Country Code
German:	Gemeinfreiheit	.de
Spanish:	Dominio público	.es
French:	Domaine public	.fr
Italian :	Pubblico dominio	.it
Portuguese:	Domínio público	.pt
Japanese:	パブリックドメイン	.ja
Chinese:	公有領域	.cn
Arabic:	ملكية عامة	.ar

For our searches, we are primarily going to use Google, and we're going to use it in some ways you may have never considered before now. Since the object of our search is to uncover new information and resources related to the Public Domain using that keyword phrase translated into other languages, the obvious first step would be to go to the Google.com website and type in the translated phrases. You can use that approach, but I want to introduce you to a way that will enable you to be more focused in your foreign language searches—**Google Language Tools**.



The easiest way to use Google’s advanced language search abilities is to go to their Language Tools page (http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en) and choose the country or language you wish to use as a search base. For example, if you want to conduct a search for Spanish websites, you would click on “Spanish” on one of the country flags where Spanish is spoken. Then, when the Google Search page for that country or language appears on your screen, enter your keyword phrase—in our case the chosen translation for “Public Domain”—into the search box and click “enter.” Your results will vary depending on the language you choose, but the thing to remember here is that these are results that you will not find any other way!

Of course, all the returned results are in the language of your choice—one which you may not be able to read—but that’s okay. Google offers us a great solution to this “problem.” Select a webpage link from the returned results and choose “Translate Page into English” from the “Translate” button on the Google toolbar (Note: This button is not active by default. You will have to enable it in the toolbar preferences).



For example, If I go to the Google German Search page (<http://www.google.de>) and type in the German word for “Public Domain” (*Gemeinfreiheit*), I get 167,00 results. Of course, the results will be in German, which could be an issue if you don’t speak German. What I do is translate the pages using Google’s Translate feature found in their toolbar. It doesn’t give you a perfect translation, but it’s usually good enough to allow you to peruse the website. Here is an example from one of the pages my search turned up.

Web Address:

<http://www.initiative-tageszeitung.de/ol-presserecht/olp-artikel.html?LeitfadenID=284>

(Original Paragraph in German)

▶ **Gemeinfreiheit**

Ein Werk ist gemeinfrei, wenn es keinem → Urheberrecht unterliegt. Wann dies der Fall ist, kann im Einzelfall schwierig zu bestimmen sind. In den USA z.B. kann ein Werk dadurch gemeinfrei werden, dass der Urheber zu Gunsten der Allgemeinheit auf seine Rechte verzichtet. In Deutschland ist ein freiwilliger Verzicht auf das Urheberrecht nicht möglich (§ 29 UrhG). Allerdings kann der Urheber das Werk unter einem solchen Nutzungsrecht zur Verfügung stellen, sodass es von jedermann frei veränderbar ist.

(Translated Paragraph Using Google’s Translator)

▶ **Common liberty**

A work is in common-free, if it is not subject → to a copyright. When this is the case, can determine in individual cases with difficulty is. In the USA e.g. a work can become in common-free by the fact that the author does to favour of the public without its rights. In Germany a freiwilliger renouncement of copyright is not possible (§ 29 UrhG). However the author can make the work available under such a right to use, so that it is freely changeable by everyone.

Here is another example...this time, in Japanese.

Web Address:

http://blogs.itmedia.co.jp/kurikiyo/2007/04/post_26b2.html

(Original Paragraph in Japanese)

ところで、日本における著作権存続期間の計算には、第二次世界大戦中には著作権が正当に守られなかったということで、連合国側（英米等）の著作物については戦後約10年間を著作権存続期間にプラスするという戦時加算という制度があつてちょっと計算がややこしくなっています。単純計算だとジェローム・カーンの曲は1995年にパブリックドメインになつてはるはずですが、そう簡単ではないのです。

(Translated Paragraph Using Google's Translator)

By the way, copyright was not protected legitimately in the World War II, there being a system, wartime addition that after the war plus it designates approximately 10 years as copyright continuance period, with the notion that where, United Nations side (concerning) book such as England and United States just a little calculation has become complicated in calculation of periods copyright continuance in Japan. When it is simplicity calculation, [jjeromu] Caen tune in 1995 becoming public domain, is [ru] expectation, but it is not to be so simple.

I hope that you're beginning to see the research implications behind this advanced search strategy. Want to try searching for other related words in the language of your choice? Try one of these online translation tools:

Dictionary.com Translator <http://dictionary.reference.com/translate/index.html>

SDL International Free Translation: <http://www.freetranslation.com/>

AltaVista BabelFish Translation: <http://babelfish.altavista.com/>

In closing, please realize that the possibilities with this strategy are much more far-reaching than the scope of this article. Use your imagination and dive in. Yes, it requires some work, but if you're like me—a researcher at heart—then you're going to have a blast testing this new approach to using other language translations as a basis for your Public Domain research. I know the results I've found are truly exciting and I expect that yours will be as well.

Quick...Simple...Easy!



“You have been the only person that has consistently performed and your PD toolbar helps me on my book almost on a daily basis.”

“I love the Public Domain toolbar! Thanks so much!”

“...it’s a great tool, and I’m only just scraping the surface.

“Got the toolbar. Great Tool!! Thank you!!”

“I purchased your Public Domain Expert Toolbar and WOW. I initially thought I was falling for another e-marketing pull-in but was I ever wrong. This toolbar is top notch. I can see you put a lot of time and thought into developing this. It just boggles my mind to see what you have done.”

“I LOVE THE TOOLBAR.”

“Thanks again for a great tool...if only I had time to execute all the ideas that are flowing from this!”

“Very cool tool!”

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