Overview

USASearch is a program of the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies (OCSIT). For over ten years, USASearch has improved the general public's access to government information by operating the U.S. government's official search engine at Search.USA.gov, providing hosted search services for more than 300 government web sites and sharing application program interfaces (APIs) and web services with web developers.

Purpose

USASearch is a strategic resource that allows the public to search for government information across web sites from all levels of government. The ability to search across the government space is critical to creating an open, transparent, and accessible government. USASearch transforms the public's search experience and saves agencies valuable resources and money by powering the search on USA.gov, GobiernoUSA.gov, and hundreds of other government web sites.

Features

Search.USA.gov - The U.S. government's official search engine. It is a powerful tool that provides the U.S. public with direct access to information published on the web from all levels of government (federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial) through a single interface.

- Leverages Bing™ index and open source software to search tens of millions of government web pages in less than one second
- Ensures reliability and stability with 99.9% uptime
- Provides access to images, forms, and recalls through search verticals
- Answers searchers' most common questions with editorially curated content
- Does not have advertisements
- Customizes search tools using algorithms specific to government information

- Optimizes results to help searchers find and make sense of relevant information quickly
- Presents search suggestions, such as related topics and type-ahead search
- Improves accessibility
  - o 508 compliant
  - o Mobile access through m.usa.gov and an iPhone application
  - o Spanish language search at Buscador.USA.gov

Affiliate Program - Saves the government tens of millions of dollars annually by providing free hosted search services for any government agency.

- Free for any federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial government agency
- Managed by GSA and allows agencies to go live in 3 easy steps
- Takes advantage of existing Search.USA.gov infrastructure and features
- Identifies searchers' needs through state-of-the art search analytics

- Allows agencies to control the search experience on their site by:
  - o Customizing the look and feel
  - o Searching across one or multiple sites
  - o Identifying content for indexing by Bing™
  - o Boosting important content
  - o Managing search suggestions
  - o Providing Spanish language support

APIs & Web Services - Free methods for any application developer to obtain and reuse authoritative government data.

- Free for any government, commercial, or nonprofit organization or individual
- Federates data from multiple sources

- Encourages developers to build new applications or mashups
- Recalls API provides standardized access to (1) food, (2) car, and (3) product safety data