

Welcome to the CSU Long Beach Tech Tips podcast. Today's episode is "Searching for User Manuals Using search engine Retrevo."

I use Google for most of my internet searches, unless I'm looking for TV and Movie related materials, then I use the Internet Movie Data Base at <http://www.imdb.com/>

There is now a third search engine I use for a very specific type of search. If I want to find the user manual for some consumer gadget (a camera, VCR, camcorder, MP3 player, cassette recorder), I turn to Retrevo at <http://www.retrevo.com>.

A general purpose search engine like Google will get you to an on-line version of the user manual but it usually requires several unnecessary steps.

For Example, I tried to use Google to find the user manual for the Nikon D200 digital camera. I was on a virtual wild goose chase, going to Nikon USA, then D200, then the service and support web page, back to the Nikon home page, then to digital photography and then the D200 again then to manuals, then guides and notes. . . It can get frustrating.

Using Retrevo is so much easier.

I went out to the Retrevo site and entered Nikon D200. After a few seconds I was viewing their beautifully formatted results page that consisted of two columns.

The right hand column showed a preview of the D200's user manual. I clicked on the download button and had my own PDF copy of the exact manual I was looking for. The left hand column was neatly divided into 4 groups of information.

The top group had a list of all the technical specifications, press releases and advertising published by Nikon.

Just below that were reviews and articles about the D200 from publishers other than the Nikon Company.

Below the reviews was a list of blogs, wikis, podcasts, and websites were devoted to the Nikon D200.

Finally, at the bottom of the column was a list of vendors that sell the Nikon D200.

Retrevo worked so well for this currently available camera that I thought I'd put it to a more difficult test. I searched for cameras that were popular in the 1970's, the Canon AE-1 and the Olympus OM-1. I also searched for the 1983 SONY Walkman Pro Audio Cassette recorder model WM-D6C.

In each case the user manual came up in the right and the additional information on the left.

All of these results popped up in a matter of seconds, just like my search for the Nikon D200.

There are some very worthwhile features in Retrevo. One of the cleverest is a link that reads "Share Results." By clicking that link, you can email the results of your search to yourself or anybody else. What gets delivered by email is a duplicate of the neatly format Retrevo results page, including the active download link that sends a copy of the user manual directly to the reader's computer.

Once again, the Retrevo search engine is available at <http://www.retrevo.com>.

I'm Walter Gajewski. Thanks for listening to episode eight of the CSU Long Beach Tech Tips Podcast.