

Using the ChatGPT Search Feature

You may find ChatGPT's new search function better than Google.

When Google overtook AltaVista as the web's premiere search site, I was amazed at how it precisely served up the websites that fit my request.

But, alas, that was then. Now, I have to scroll through ads, "sponsored" sites, and scams until I find the site I'm looking. Along the way, I bypass Reddit threads, LinkedIn bios, and Amazon offerings for stuff I don't want. Then I forget what I'm looking for. (Sigh.)

Bing isn't much better.

DuckDuckGo is less messy and more private, but it still offers ads and places to buy things when I want to look up information about something – say, "applesauce."

But now we have an alternative that looks promising: OpanIA's new search feature that's part of ChatGPT 4o.

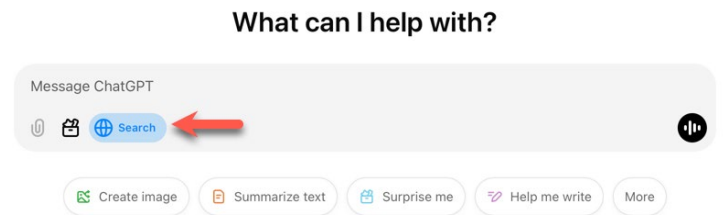
I've increasingly relied on ChatGPT to summarize the world in neat lists and easy-to-read paragraphs. "How does Bitcoin work?" "What's the difference between baking soda and baking powder?" "When will the sun turn into a red giant and destroy the Earth, leaving only a burned-out cinder with a couple of Burma-Shave signs?"

But these are all "prompts – questions that elicit detailed answers. Instead, I want to type a topic, like "applesauce," and get a list of websites about applesauce. ChatGPT's new search function lets me do that.

To enter the Search feature, you click on the globe icon and type your search request. ChatGPT will return an explanation of the topic, a list of recent articles, and Sources icon. Clicking that icon produces a more extensive list of citations.

I still use Google to search for images, and Wikipedia remains a top information source. However, I can see that ChatGPT will continue to play a significant role in my research.

If you need computer help just fill out the form at **Tech Lab – Center for Modern Aging Princeton** (cmaprinceton.org) to set up an appointment.



Click the globe icon to enter the Search function.

Recent Articles on Applesauce Recipes and Uses



The results of my ChatGPT search for "applesauce" included a detailed explanation of applesauce, (not shown here because I only get one page in the CMAP Compass–pity) followed by a list of recent applesauce articles. Clicking the Sources icon shows a more extensive list of the citations used in the search results. Cool.