



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating a Search Page](http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating_a_Search_Page)

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Creating a Search Page

WordPress automatically generates a web page for search results, but how would you like to have a custom search page for your visitors? Using the WordPress [Pages](#) feature, you can create a custom search page with information that will help your users search your website.

Things You Need to Know

Different WordPress Themes feature different [template files](#). Some include a `search.php` template file. This is **not** a *Search Page*, it is merely a template that displays the search results. There is also a template file called `searchform.php`. This is a template file that is often included in the sidebar of many themes and generates the search box form.

To create your own custom Search Page, you will need to create a [Page template](#) to include your search form and the information you want your users to see before they search your site.

Check your WordPress Theme to see if it includes a `page.php` template file. The Default WordPress Theme does include this template, but many do not. If it does, then follow [these instructions](#). If it does not, we have the information you need to [create your own](#).

Using the page.php

1. Using a [text editor](#), open the `page.php` and save as `searchpage.php`. (**Note:** The filename `search.php` is reserved as a special template name, so avoid its usage; the suggested `searchpage.php` just makes it easy to recognize in the list of files.)

2. After saving it, edit the file:

- Delete [The Loop](#) (i.e. basically everything within your content `div`), leaving the `div` tags intact.
- Add a [heading](#) such as "Search Posts" or something similar. You can use an existing class from your CSS style sheet, or create a new one.
- Copy the following into the content `div` or any other `div` that contains the content of your Page:

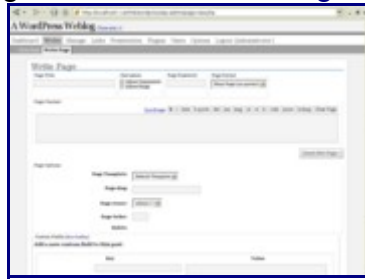
```
<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/searchform.php'); ?>
```

- At the top of your `searchpage.php`, before anything else, add this to give your Search Page a heading WordPress will recognize in the Administration Panels:

```
<?php
/*
Template Name: Search Page
*/
?>
```

- Save the file

- Upload the file to your theme directory (if you made changes to your `style.css` style sheet file, upload that, too).
- In the [Administration Panels](#) go to [Write](#) > [Write Page](#).



WordPress Write Page Panel

- In the title field enter **Search**.
- **Do not write anything in the content area.**
- From the [Page Template](#) drop-down menu select: **Search Page**
- Click the **Create New Page** button
- Select the [Manage Pages](#) panel.
- Write down the `page_id` number of your newly created [Page](#) named **Search Page**.

You are now ready to customize the look of your Search Page.

Creating a Search Page Template

If you do not have a `page.php`, you can create one based upon your Theme's `index.php` template file.

1. In a [text editor](#), open your theme's `index.php` and save as `searchpage.php`.
2. Then follow the editing steps from [above](#).

Linking to Your Search Page

You can now make a link to your custom Search Page in several ways.

Using the Page ID

Whether or not you use permalinks, you can link to your new Search Page by using Page ID number of the Page.

```
<a href="index.php?page_id=17" title="Search Page">Search Page</a>
```

OR

```
<a href="<?php bloginfo('url'); ?>/?page_id=17">Search Page</a>
```

Using the Page Slug

The Page slug is set in the [Edit Page](#) panel. It is the name of the page if you are using [Permalinks](#). You can manually change this. An example of a Page slug link would be:

```
<a href="/wordpress/search-page" title="Search Page">Search Page</a>
```

OR

```
<a href="<?php bloginfo('url'); ?>/wordpress/search-page" title="Search
Page">Search Page</a>
```

Using `wp_list_pages()`

If you are using the `wp_list_pages()` template tag, the page name would be automatically generated in your Pages list.

Customizing Your Search Page



Manage Pages Panel

Now that you have created your custom Search Page, you can customize the display. From the [Manage](#) > [Pages](#) panel, on your custom Search Page line, choose **Edit**. Or open your `searchpage.php` in a text editor and edit it there.

Above the `include` function for your `searchform.php` within the content div, you can add text to help visitors search your site.

```
<p>
My Site features articles about
<a title="WordPress Articles" href="index.php?cat=4">WordPress</a>,
<a title="Web Design Articles" href="index.php?cat=5">web page design</a>,
<a title="Development Articles" href="index.php?cat=6">website
development</a>,
and <a title="CSS Articles" href="index.php?cat=7">CSS</a>.
</p>
<p>To search my website, please use the form below.</p>

<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/searchform.php'); ?>
```

You might want to include a list of keywords or other information, images, or details to customize your custom Search Page.