

(8/8/2009, updated)

## The Best Way for Task Ordering Activities to Search *GSA Advantage* is For Them Not to Use *GSA Advantage*'s Own Search Engine

The best way to search *GSA Advantage!*® when working on Schedule task orders is through a search engine you unfortunately probably will never see at *GSA Advantage!*®

[\*Advantage Custom Search Engine\*](#), designed by Jon Bearscope in GSA's Region 10, is designed to assist federal agencies, vendors, and the general public in conducting online research using the *GSA Advantage!*® website. This search engine allows for customized searching of contractor pricelists specifically on the GSA Multiple Award Schedule's service contract price lists, something GSA's official *Advantage!*® search function is, unfortunately, not optimized for.

I frequently used Jon's Google-based search engine when helping activities find the Schedule(s)/SIN(s) of best fit for their service requirement. I suggest you give it a good test by first putting keywords from a task order's draft Performance Work Statement (PWS) into the usual *GSA Advantage!*® search text block. Then compare the results obtained after entering those same PWS search terms into the search text block at Jon's [\*Advantage Custom Search Engine\*](#).

Over the past few years, many people within GSA and Schedule ordering activities have discovered how much superior this new and powerful search engine is to *Advantage*'s own search text block. Unfortunately, Jon has to host his great spare-time invention at a private website not affiliated with GSA. I wish more Contracting Officers working on Schedule task orders knew about it. I wish those in the GSA systems organizations with a vested interest in the *GSA Advantage!*® *status quo* would modify their GSA system to make it do what Jon's search engine can do.

I think *GSA Advantage!*® is great for many Schedules applications, particularly those relating to products rather than services. But I've found that the [\*Advantage Custom Search Engine\*](#) is much better search tool particularly well-suited to searching Schedule contractors' pricelists, the application of most use to me when helping ordering agencies in the market research phase of using the Schedules for services.

Here is some [additional information](#) and instructions on this *better way of GSA online searching*.