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Search and find content

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Extended search

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *26 April 2021*, was based off this revision.

ExtendedSearch replaces the default MediaWiki search engine. It is based on the [Elasticsearch](#) engine and provides many improvements over standard MediaWiki search both in terms of quality of indexed content and user interface. Pages and files are indexed immediately and available for searching in real-time.

Contents

Usage

Extended search offers two ways of searching for content:

1. **Title search** using the quick search
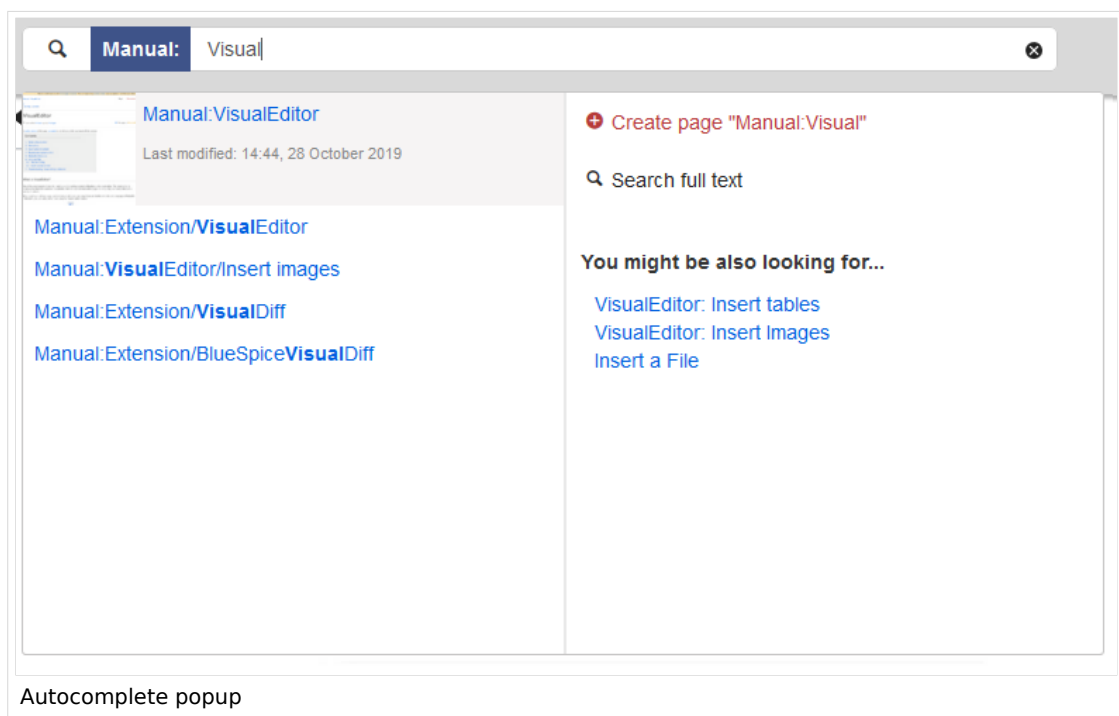2. **Fulltext search** using the search center

By default, the search indexes:

- wiki pages: all content pages, except for pages in the MediaWiki namespace
- special pages: all pages in the namespace *Special*
- repo files: files uploaded to the wiki - for text files like Word documents and PDFs, this includes content and metadata
- external files: files from arbitrary locations from accessible storage paths (e.g., mounted drives)
- social entities: entities (pages) created by the BlueSpiceSocial extension, like blog posts and user profiles

Autocomplete

The search box in the main toolbar offers with autocomplete functionality is available from any page on the wiki. Autocomplete matches only page and file titles, but does not provide a full-text serach.

After typing in the search bar, an autocomplete popup appears:

Autocomplete popup

This popup is divided in two columns.

Left column:

- **Primary results:** These are the results that are direct matches for the search term. The exact matches are shown in bold letters.

- When looking for the term "quality management", it is also possible to type in "qual man" and the search starts looking for matches
- The best match is often shown with a thumbnail preview as a top search result
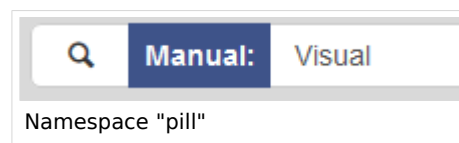
Right column:

- T**ools and secondary results:** Tools are displayed in the top portion of the right column and contain:
  - a button to create the page with the current search term as the title (only if user has permission to create new pages)
  - a button to execute full-text search for the current term. Selecting this option leads to the Search Center.

In the bottom portion of the right column, secondary results are displayed. Secondary results are matches that do not directly match the given term, but might be relevant for the user. These show up only in certain contexts:

- If there are significantly more matches for a similar term than the term actually searched for (in a situation of a typo for example)
- If the namespace or subpage pill is present (see next section). In this case, secondary results will show direct matches in other namespaces/pages.

Namespace and subpage "pills"

Autocomplete search bar supports pills for namespaces and subpages.

Namespace "pill"

If a user types `Manual:` , a pill for the namespace "Manual" appears and the search for the following term is limited to this namespace. . Subpage pills work in the same way. If the user types in `PageName/` , any term after that is matched in the context of that page. If you search for "TestPage/Te", for example, the search will match only subpages of "TestPage" that contain "Te" in the title, like "TestPage/Test" and "TestPage/TestSubpage".
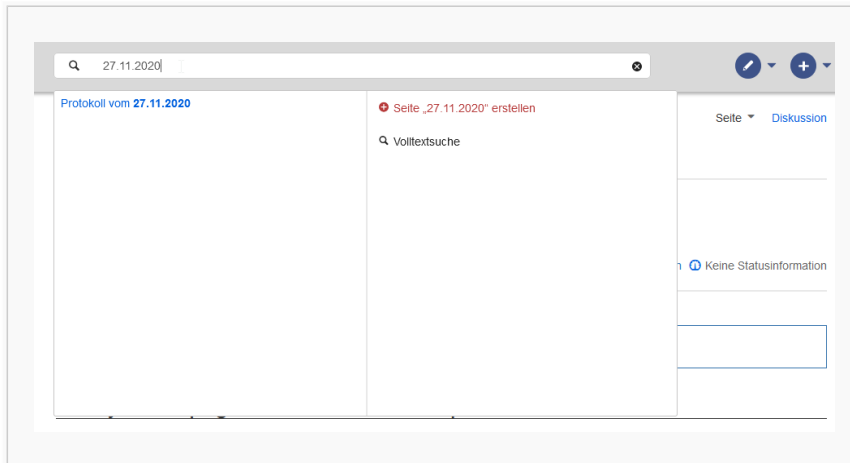
Configuration

Previously explained is the full version of the autocomplete popup. Wiki admins can also choose to use "Simple autocomplete", which contains only one column with primary results and tools, without secondary results. This type of autocomplete is also more compact. This setting is available from BlueSpiceConfigManager, under *Extension > BlueSpiceExtendedSearch > Use simple autocomplete*.
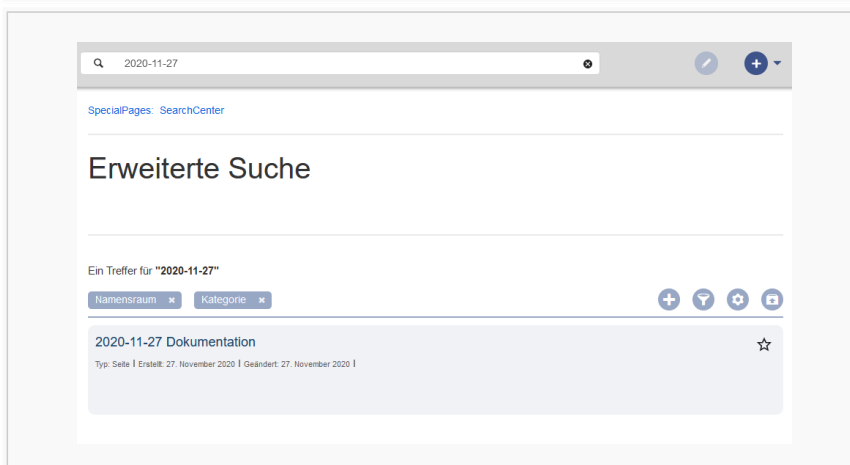
Search operators

Since the autocomplete search only searches for titles, search operators such as AND or OR are not supported. However, they are supported using the Search Center.

Dates as search terms

The search recognizes certain date formats. In the search center, these date formats are treated with surrounding quotation marks.
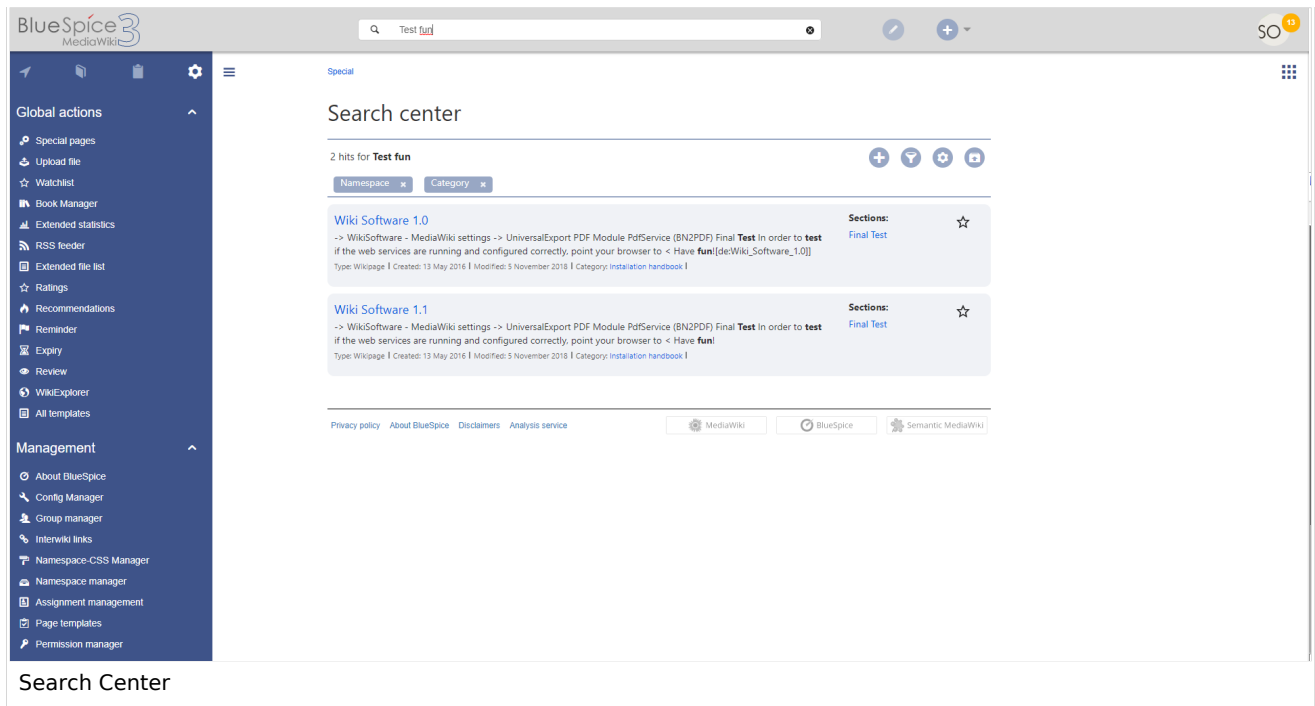

Date format 1

Date format 2

Search Center (extended search)

As soon as you trigger the full-search with the magnifying glass symbol or the *Enter* key, the wiki switches to the Search Center. This is a special page that offers the full functionality of the search. The search in the Search Center is carried out using the same search bar that is also used for autocomplete.

Here, the search engine carries out a full text search, which also includes the metadata of documents. It does not index the wikitext of a wiki page, but rather the rendered content, that is the output by the browser.
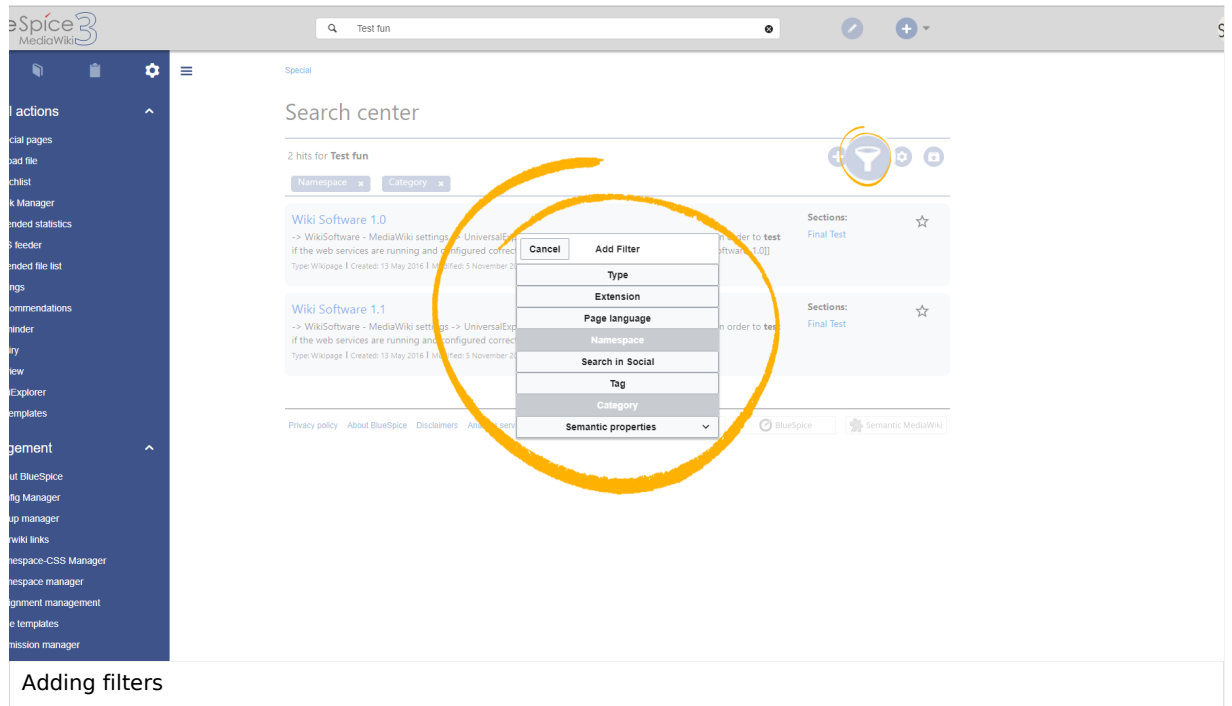
Search Center

Search operators

To use search operators in the full-text search, the following syntax can be used:

- Sandbox **AND** Widgets - returns pages that contain both the term sandbox and the term widgets
- Sandbox **OR** Widgets - returns pages that contain either the term sandbox or the term widgets.
- (Sandbox) **NOT** (Widgets) - returns pages that contain the term sandbox but not the term widgets..
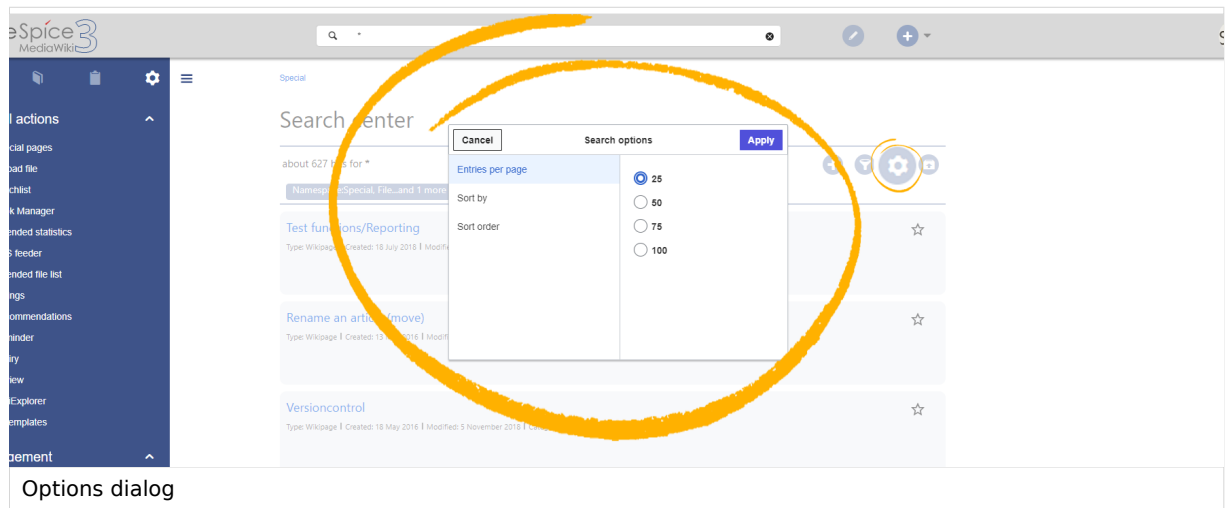
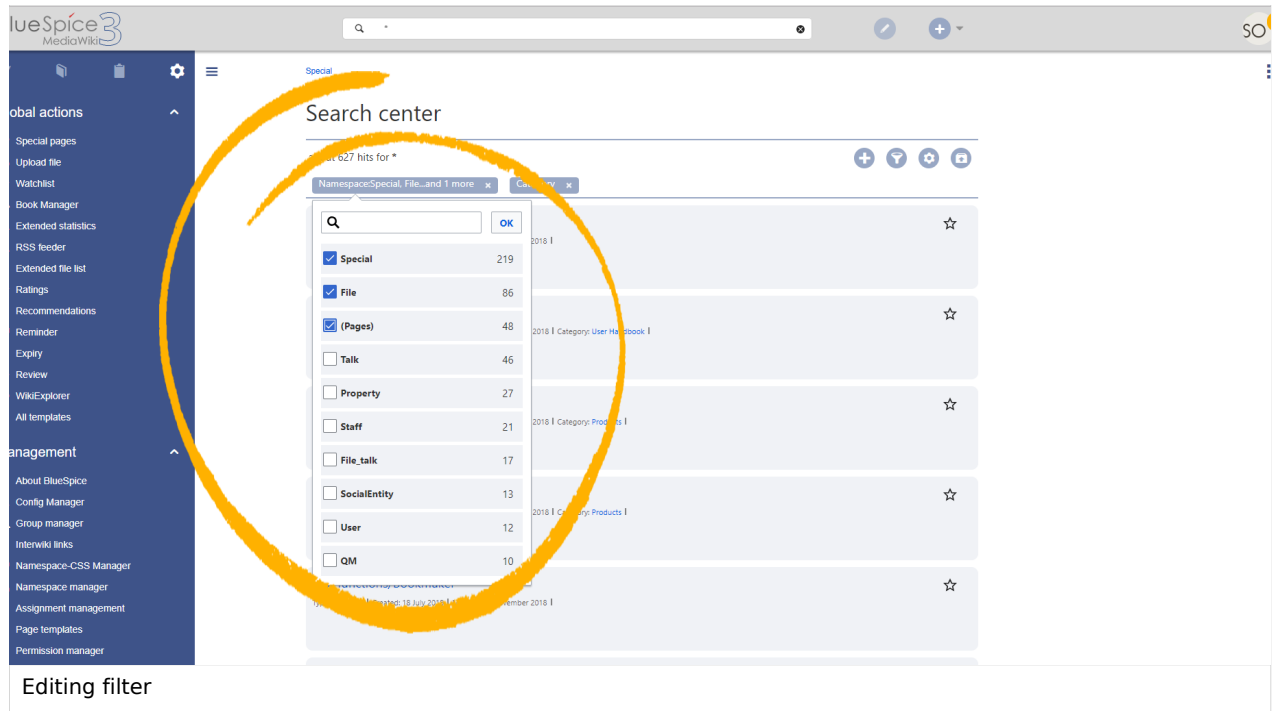The search operators have to be written in uppercase letters.

Elements

- **Hit count** - shows how many matches a search has returned. It may be exact or approximate. Approximation is due to dynamic check for permissions to view each page in the results, some results may not be shown to the user with no adequeate permissions event if it matches the search term.
- **Tools** - these are located in the top right as a set of buttons:
  - Create a page - represented by a "plus" button - will create a page with current search term as a title (only visible if user has permission to create pages)
  - Add filters - represented by a "funnel" icon - opens a dialog where users can select the type of filter to apply to the search.

Adding filters

○ Search options - represented by a "gear" icon - opens a dialog where users can change settings for the current search. It provides options like the number of results per page, sorting field and order.

Options dialog

○ Export search - represented by the "export" icon - opens a dialog to export current search results to a dedicated page (only visible to authorized users, by default admin users).

● **Filter:** Filters are displayed in form of pills below the results counter. Each filter pill represents a different attribute. Filter values can be changed by clicking on the filter pill and selecting the desired options from the popup that will open. Filter can be removed by clicking on the "x" button in each pill.

Editing filter

- **Results:** If current search criteria yield any results, a list of results is displayed. The information available in the results is depending on the result type):
  - Main title of the result (page title, file name...)
  - Result type
  - Size and extension (for files)
  - Thumb image (for images) or file type icon (for other file types)
  - Redirect information
  - Original name (for wikipages, if the page display title is different than the actual page title)
  - Secondary information like page categories, modification and creation date, author, etc.
  - Snippet of the matches in the content of the page (if there are matches in the page content),
  - Sections with matches in the content (for wikipages)

In case there is an exact match for a given search term, the result that matches exactly is displayed as a "featured" result. Such a result displays a preview image of the page and always displays the content snippet, regardless of whether there are matches in the content or not.
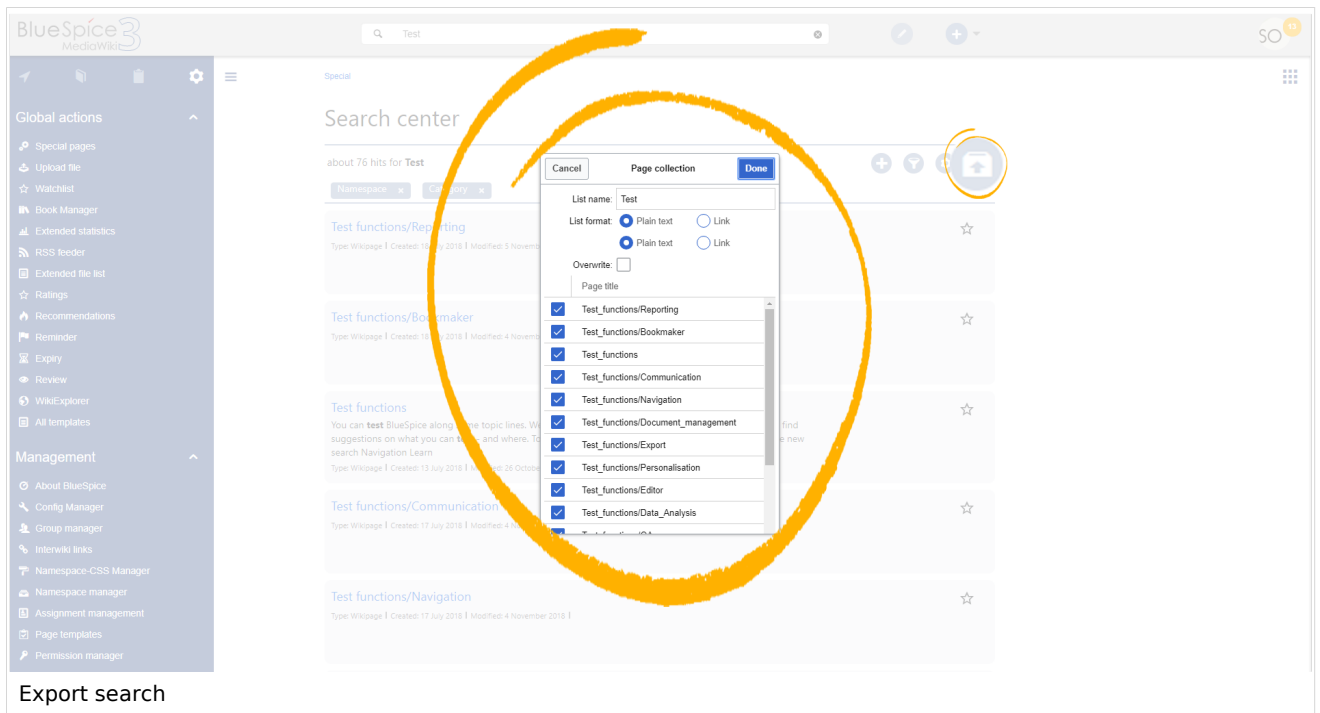
Results relevance

All logged-in users can mark certain results as "favorites" by clicking on the star symbol in the right corner of each result. Files marked as "favorite" will score higher in future searches - this is not visible immediately, however, but happens over time. One user's relevance settings won't affect other user's searches. Results can be unmarked as "favorite" by clicking on the "star" symbol again.

Exporting search results

After executing the search, administrators can export (save) the results to a specific page using the "Export" command from the "Tools" menu. The list is exported to *MediaWiki:PageCollection /LISTENNAME.*

Only valid wikipages are exported. The pages contained in a list can be included in a book in the book function via *Mass add> Source: Page collection.*

Export search

Configuration

In the [BlueSpiceConfigManager](#), under settings for the extension *BlueSpiceExtendedSearch*, the following configuration options are available:
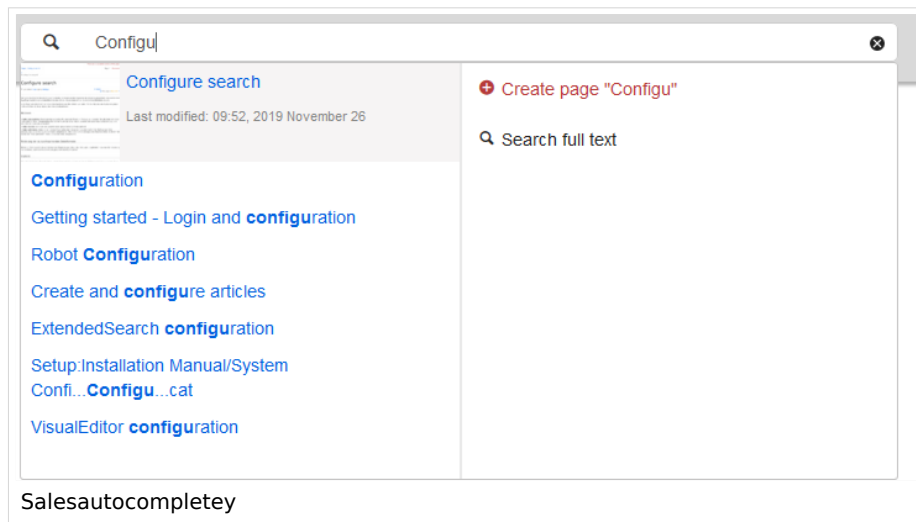
- **External file paths**: External locations to scan for and index files from. These locations are entered in key/value pairs of Physical path and URL prefix.
  - *Physical path: S*torage path. For mounted drives, for example: *X:\Documents*
  - *URL prefix:* All files indexed from the indexed physical location are prefixed in the search results. It should be used if files are available from a web server. By default, the URL prefix is set to the same value as *Physical path*.

Examples for external file paths

Example file	Phys. Path	URL Prefix	Link in results list
S:\Sales\Info\glossaryy.pdf	S:\	file:///S:/	file:///S:/Sales/Info/glossary.pdf
		https://sharepoint /Sales/ documents/	https://sharepoint/Sales/ documents/Sales/Info/glossary. pdf
		https://intranet /showdocs inline.aspx?path=	https://intranet/showdocsinline. aspx? path=/Sales/Info/glossary.pdf

/var/www/bluespice/w/mounted_ share/Sales/Info/glossary.pdf	/var/www/bluespice/w/ mounted_share/		https://wiki.company.local/w/mounted_ share/Sales/Info/glossary.pdf

- **Use simple autocomplete:** forces a more compact autocomplete (1-column Sales thumbnail preview).

compact autocomplete

Salesautocompletey

- **Automatically set language filter**: This setting applies to multi-languageSalesIt returns seyarch results for a user only in the user's language. Users can set their language in their preferences.
- **Exclude patterns:** Files at external file locations can be exluded from search based on regular expression patterns.

SearchAdmin

Special:SearchAdmin is a special page for wiki admins. This page provides stats on documents indexed in the search.

Related info

- Reference:BlueSpiceExtendedSearch

Watchlist

A quality version of this page, approved on *28 July 2020*, was based off this revision.

With the **watchlist**, you can monitor all wiki pages that are important to you. In your preferences, you can customize when and how to be notified about different types of changes related to the pages on your watchlist. Your watchlist is only visible to you. Administrators can see a report of which pages are not on any watchlist.

Contents

Watching and unwatching pages

In the title section of a page, you can add the page to your watchlist. Click *Watch* to add the page to the watchlist. The link description switches to Unwatch. Click *Unwatch* to remove the list from your watchlist.

The watchlist switch link

Automatic additions

In addition to manually marking a page watched, there are several ways a page can be added automatically. For example, whenever you create or edit a page, that page can be added to the watchlist. You can change the options for this in the *Watchlist* settings in your Preferences.

Important!   If you have deactivated the setting *Add pages and files I edit to my watchlist* in the settings, the check box *Watch this page* in the save dialog is not automatically activated. If you do not manually activate this checkbox when saving a page, a page that was on your watch list will be removed from the watch list when you save. Conversely, each page is automatically added to your watch list if this check box is selected by default. When saving, always check whether the edited page should (still) be on your watchlist.
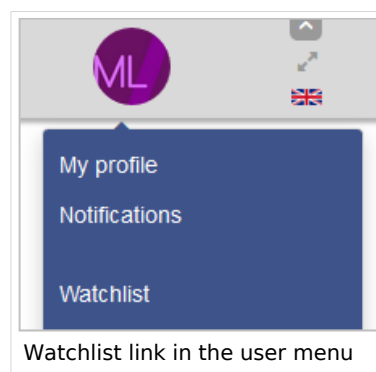

A page is removed from the watchlist

Settings

Go to your user menu. Click *Preferences* and select the tab *Watchlist* to access the following settings:
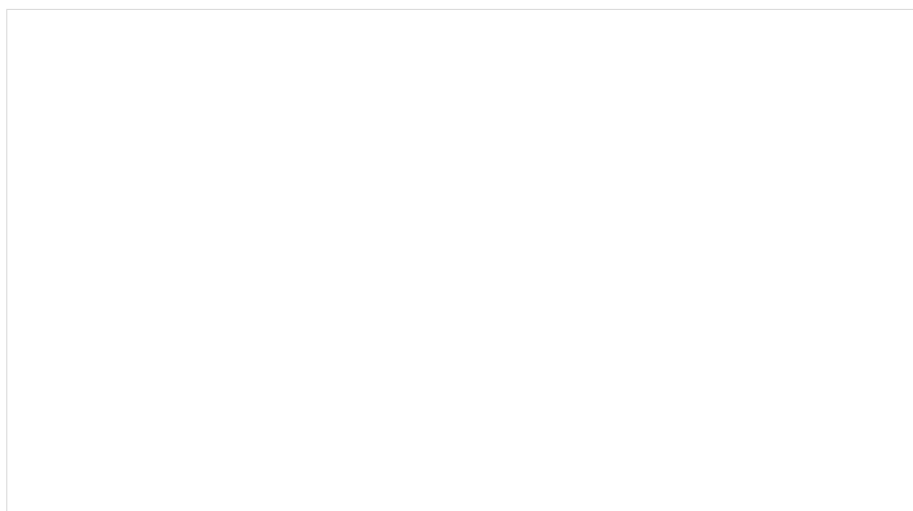
- **Edit watchlist**: Links to the maintenance pages for the watchlist.
- **Display options:** Default settings for showing pages in your watchlist that have recently changed.
  - You can set 3-90 days of page changes.
  - You can set 250-1000 watchlist results.
- **Advanced options:** Settings for automatically adding pages to the watchlist or hiding page changes from the watchlist.
- **Watchlist token:** The token can be used to create a public RSS feed to your watchlist. Anyone who knows this token can access the feed. The syntax for the feed URL is: `https://[YourWikiDomain]/w /api.php?action=feedwatchlist&wlowner=[USERNAME]&wltoken=[TOKEN]`
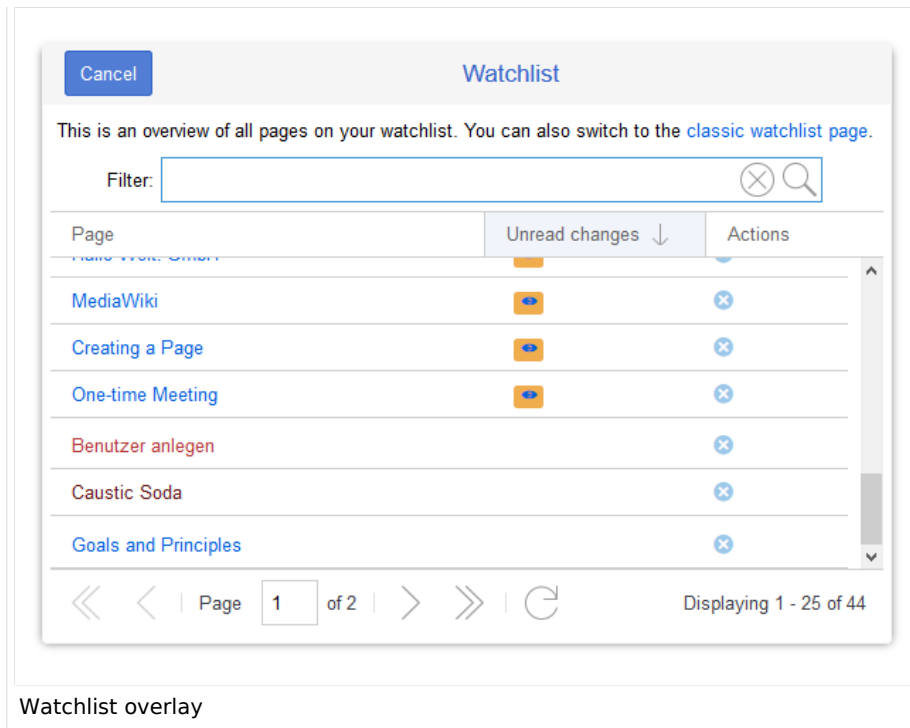
Watchlist quick view

You can open a quick view of your watchlist from the user profile menu.

Watchlist link in the user menu

This opens an overlay with a filterable and sortable view of your watchlist directly on the current page. The watchlist indicates what pages on your pages have changes that are unread by you. Clicking on the icon for unread changes leads to the version comparison page so that you can quickly review the changes you haven't seen yet.

Watchlist overlay

Classic watchlist

From this overlay display, you can switch to the classic view of the watchlist. This loads the page *Special:Watchlist*:

At the top of the Watchlist page are some important edit links and information about your watchlist settings:

- **View relevant changes:** This is the default watchlist page. It displays the filter menu with the legend.
- **View and edit watchlist:** Here you can delete entries from your watchlist.
- **Edit raw watchlist:** Loads an editable list of the page names on your watchlist.
- **Clear the watchlist:** Loads a page that clears your watchlist in the next step. Clicking this link will not clear the watchlist yet.

Classic view of the watchlist page

Note: Since many social entities are created automatically by the system, changes to pages in the namespace SocialEntity are filtered out by default. You can remove the filter to view changes to pages in this namespace.

Notifications

You can get notifications about all changes on that page.

To receive notifications, go to your *Preferences* and open the *Notifications* tab. You can select to get notifications about the following changes:

- **Actions on pages in watchlist:** A page was edited or deleted.
- **Entity actions on watched pages:** A discussion topic or an attachment was added, edited, or deleted.

Sidebar widget

The watchlist is, by default, is included in the user sidebar. It can be removed by deletiing the entry `*WATCHLIST` .

The watchlist tag

You can include the watchlist in the page content by adding the tag `<bs:watchlist />`.

Example:

```
<bs:watchlist count="4" maxtitlelength="20" order="time" />
```

Output:

Related info

- Reference:BlueSpiceWatchList

Manual:Extension/WikiExplorer

Redirect to:
- Manual:Extension/BlueSpiceWikiExplorer

Manual:Special pages

A *quality version* of this page, *approved* on *30 July 2020*, was based off this revision.

Special pages are an important tool for wiki maintainers to track changes on the wiki and to view important information about all wiki pages. These pages have no wikitext, are not editable and are created by the software itself.

Finding special pages

To access a list of all special pages, click on Special pages in the *Global actions* menu or navigate directly to the page *Special:SpecialPages*. Some common special pages are also linked directly from *the Global actions* menu. All special pages are located in their own namespace *Special:* and are not editable directly as other pages. It is not possible to make a redirect to a special page, or to create content pages beginning with the *Special:* prefix.

Examples of special pages

There are many special pages available. Take some time to click through them and see which ones are useful to you. This list also contains all Special pages that are provided by BlueSpice. If you plan on using some special pages frequently and they are not already listed in the navigation, you can create links to them in your personal navigation.

Maintenance reports

- **Broken redirects**: This special page lists redirects to non-existent pages.
- **Dead-end pages**: pages which do not link to other pages in the wiki are listed here.
- **Orphaned pages**: pages listed here are not linked from or transcluded into other pages of the wiki.
- **Protected pages**: Here you can browse through namespaces for finding protected pages. For a more detailed search you can specify permission and restriction level and the size of the pages searched for.
- **Protected titles**: Single namespaces can be scanned for protected titles.
- **Uncategorized pages**: Lists all pages which are in no category.

List of pages

- **All pages**: Here all pages of the wiki are listed. You may narrow your search by choosing a namespace to search within or you decide upon a letter(combination) where your search shall start. Pagenames which start with a letter(combination) alphabetically before the chosen one will not be listed.
- **Categories**: All categories are listed which contain pages or media. Unused categories are not listed.
- **List of redirects**: Lists pages which have been redirected and the pages they have been redirected to.

Users and Rights

- **Active users list:** Shows the users that have had some kind of activity in the last 30 days.
- **Block user**: Shows a form in which users can be blocked. There are several options about expiry, reason and the blockage.

Recent changes and logs

- **Logs**: Shows all logs of the wiki. Alternatively, you can decide on a special log to be shown. Within a log you can also search for user and/or title and narrow the time span within which is searched.
- **Recent changes**: Lists changes which have ocurred recently. You can decide how many changes shall be shown up to the last 30 days. You can also search within a namespace or exclude a namespace from search.
- **Related changes**: This is a list of changes made recently to pages linked from a specified page (or to members of a specified category). Pages on your watchlist are bold. Again you can search within a namespace or exclude a namespace from search. Or you can look for a page name or its linked pages.

Data and tools

- **HalloWiki - Statistics**: Enables you to create a diagram about number of users, editings, number of articles, editings per user or search requests within a defined time span.
- **Popular pages**: Lists the pages which are most often viewed.
- **System messages**: Lists system messages which are available in the MediaWiki namespace.

Redirecting special pages

- **Random page**: Takes you to a page of the wiki which is chosen randomly.
- **Random redirect**: Takes you randomly to a redirected page of the wiki.
- **Search**: Allows you to search within chosen namespaces.

High use pages

- **Most linked-to categories**: Shows the categories which have most member-pages (displaying the number of members in brackets).
- **Most linked-to pages**: Lists pages that are most often linked to (displaying the number of links in brackets).

Page tools

- **Export pages**: Text and editing history of a particular page can be exported to another wiki via this form.
- **Import pages**: External pages can be imported as XML data here.
- **View deleted pages**: Pages that have been deleted can be found here.
- **What links here**: Enter page name (and choose a namespace) to get all internal pages that link to the page.

Data and tools

- **Book sources**: Allows to search for book sources vial ISBN-number.
- **Replace text:** Global find and replace option for the wiki allows to replace the text on multiple pages at the same time.

RecentChanges

Recent changes is a MediaWiki feature that shows you the latest changes that happened on the your wiki.
You can access this page at: `Special:RecentChanges` or from the main navigation in a default wiki installation.

See the official documentation on mediawiki.org for further information.

BlueSpice also provides a SmartList tag to display and filter recent changes in the content of a wiki page.