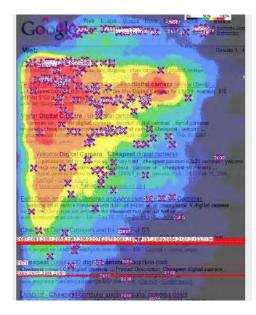


Today's Agenda

- 1 Why is SEO Important?
- 2 How Does SEO Affect PR?
- 3 Optimizing News Releases for SEO
- 4 Recap & Resources For Further Learning



Evolution of the SERP: 2005 vs. 2014



2005
Triangle-shaped heat map
Few "universal results"
(maps, videos, local)



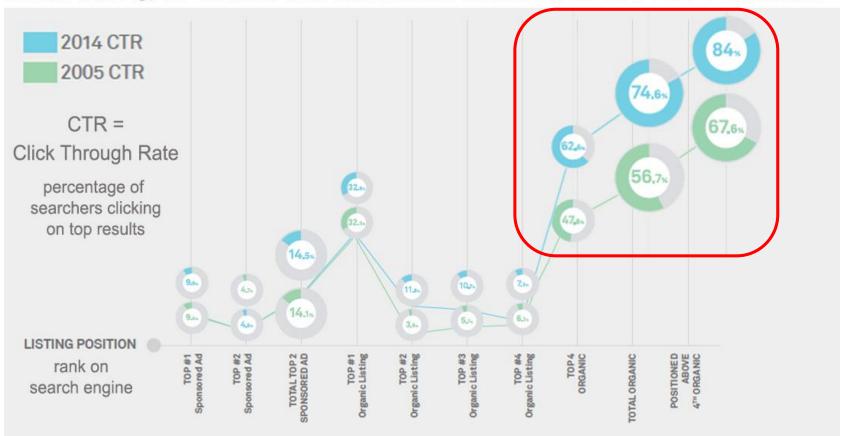
2014

Vertical scanning heat map Expanded area for ads at the top Universal results for maps, images, etc.

Source: Mediative

Organic Click Share Has Increased

ORGANIC & SPONSORED LISTINGS COMPARISON: 2014 vs. 2005





SEO Optimized News Releases Have Dual Impact

 News releases posted on your site show up higher in search results

- Domain authority is increased from incoming links
 - Acts as a 'rising tide' for all of your site's rankings



SEO Optimization Touchpoints

- Keyword Targeting
- Keyword Density
- Titles & Subheadings
- Formatting
- Linking
- Footer

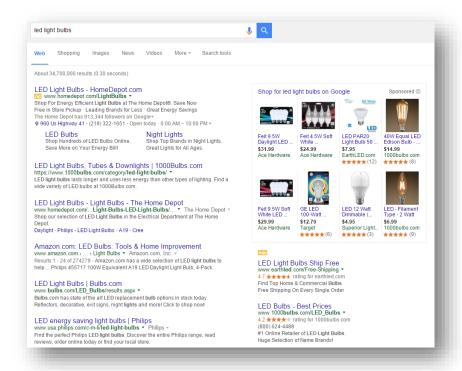


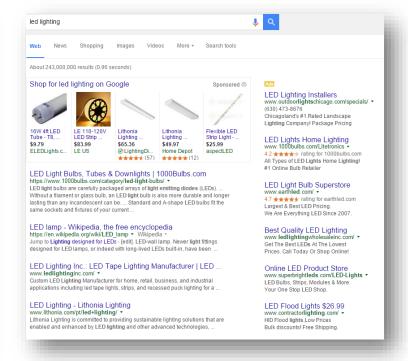
Keyword Targeting

- Conduct thorough analysis to understand search patterns and determine keywords to target
 - Google AdWords Keyword Planner
 - Run Google search
- Avoid "techie" or marketing messages: General segment keywords are very popular in searches
- Use common sense think of words your parents or grandparents would use to search
- Identify 3-5 priority keywords

Search terms		Avg. monthly searches ?
led light bulbs	<u>~</u>	74,000
led lighting	<u>~</u>	40,500

Keyword Targeting





Keyword Targeting

Keyword opportunities or "gap keywords" for auto insurance website

Avg. monthly Search terms searches ? 8.100 classic car insurance ~ car insurance calculator 5,400 ~ non owner car insurance 2.900 car insurance estimator 2.400 collector car insurance 1.900 1,300 car insurance for teens ~ military car insurance 1,300 ~ 590 auto insurance score

Competitors capitalizing on gap keywords

Classic Car Insurance Quotes: Collector Car Insurance Quote

www.progressive.com/...car-insurance/collector-... * Progressive Corporation * Check out classic car Insurance quotes from Progressive. We understand what collector car owners want and need to protect their investment. That's whywe ...

Auto Insurance Coverage Calculator | Liberty Mutual

www.libertymutual.com > ... > Tools & Resources ▼ Liberty Mutual ▼ Liberty Mutual's **auto insurance calculator** helps decipher car insurance coverage needs and cost. Learn about switching to an affordable auto insurance policy.

Acceptance | Non Owners Auto Insurance

www.acceptanceinsurance.com/../auto-insurance/non-owners-auto-insur... *
Consider buying a non-owners auto insurance if you don't own a car but
occasionally borrow or rent one. Get your free non-owners car insurance quote
online!

Car Insurance for Teenagers – State Farm®

https://www.statefarm.com/insurance/auto/../new-te... * State Farm Insurance * Looking for car insurance for elenagers? Find out how to add a new teenage driver to your existing State Farm® Auto Insurance policy.

GEICO | Military Program ~ Auto Insurance for the Military

https://www.geico.com/information/military/ * GEICO * GEICO has been dedicated to serving military personnel since the company began. We understand the insurance needs of people in the armed forces.

Military Center - Insurance Discounts - GEICO and the Military - Military Team

Insurance Scores: What You Should Know - Progressive ...

www.progressive.com/.../car-insurance-credit-sc... • Progressive Corporation • An insurance score is not a credit score. Find out what you should know about insurance scores and how they affect your auto insurance rate.

Keyword Density

- Ideal news release length is approximately 500 words
- Each targeted keyword should appear two to three times evenly spaced throughout copy
- Priority keywords should appear in the first paragraph (nut graph) but not necessarily in the lede
- Do not stuff your articles with keywords solely for the purpose of SEO; If it SOUNDS bad, it IS bad

Titles & Subheadings

- Use priority keywords in your page titles whenever possible, to help crawlers identify main themes
- Feature priority keywords FIRST before branding
- Titles should be no longer than 70 characters including spaces
- Using the h1 tag for your title will make crawlers take your content seriously provided the title's words are also present somewhere in the text
- Utilize subheadings with targeted keywords when appropriate

Michigan Hospital Lights Parking Deck for \$170,000 Less with GE LED Fixtures

LED Parking Garage Lighting Fixtures from GE Help Michigan Hospital Save \$170,000

Formatting

- Format keywords with italics, underlining or bolding to emphasize their importance on a page
- Keep focused on target keywords so as not to weaken effect overemphasis is de-emphasis
- Use numbered and bulleted lists where appropriate
 - Lists are very popular with bloggers and social media users, and offer high potential for re-posting

Linking

- Use targeted keywords as the anchor (clickable) text (never "learn more," nor "click here," etc.)
- Interlink your pages to maximize impact (Links act as popularity votes from one page to another)
- Link to relevant, external web sites to increase credibility (don't over do it)
- Only link once to a page

Click here to learn more about our cold and flu products

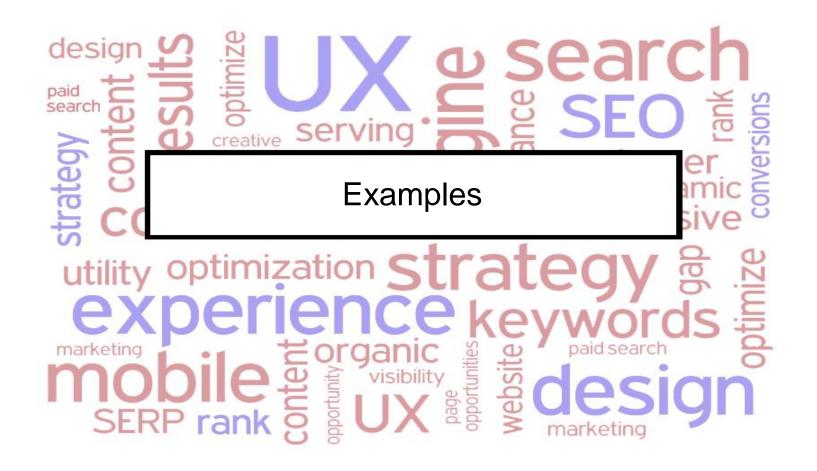
Learn more about our cold and flu products

Footer

- The standard footer used on News Releases should contain standard links back to the site
- Use optimized anchor text with priority keywords
- Optimizations need to be done before legal review

About Spectrum Health

Spectrum Health is a not-for-profit health system in West Michigan offering a full continuum of care through the Spectrum Health Hospital Group, which is comprised of nine hospitals including Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, a state-of-the-art children's hospital that opened in January 2011, and 190 service sites; the Spectrum Health Medical Group and West Michigan Heart, physician groups totaling more than 600 providers; and Priority Health, a health plan with 625,000 members. Spectrum Health is West Michigan's largest employer with more than 18,000 employees. The organization provided \$176.5 million in community benefit during its 2011 fiscal year. In 2011 and 2010, Spectrum Health was named a Top 10 Health System by Thomson Reuters.



Example: Unoptimized

Priority Keywords: CFL, precise dimming

GE SCIENTISTS GIVE CFLS MORE PRECISE DIMMING, LONGER LIFE

EAST CLEVELAND, Ohio--(<u>BUSINESS WIRE</u>)--For the first time, consumers won't have to choose between energy savings and sophisticated dimming features. A new generation of GE Energy Smart and Reveal bulbs brings smooth dimming capabilities to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). A popular incandescent feature that previous CFLs weren't able to mimic, GE's new CFLs dim down to five percent of light output – most CFLs on the market today only dim down to 20 percent.

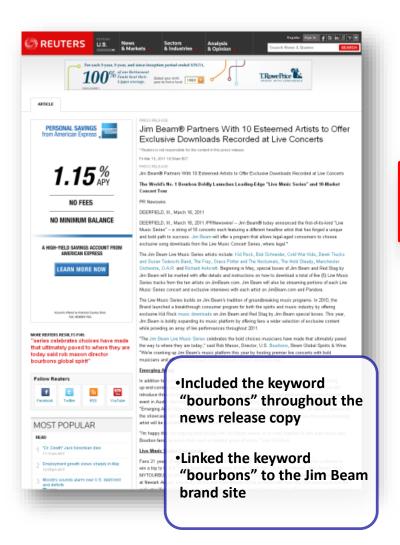
Example: Optimized

Priority Keywords: dimmable CFL, precise dimming

DIMMABLE CFL'S GET MORE PRECISE DIMMING LONGER LIFE FROM GE SCIENTISTS

EAST CLEVELAND, Ohio--(<u>BUSINESS WIRE</u>)--For the first time, consumers won't have to choose between energy savings and sophisticated dimming features. A new generation of GE Energy Smart and Reveal bulbs brings smooth and more precise dimming capabilities to compact fluorescent light bulbs (<u>CFLs</u>). A popular incandescent feature that previous CFLs weren't able to mimic, GE's new dimmable CFLs dim down to five percent of light output – most CFLs on the market today only dim down to 20 percent.

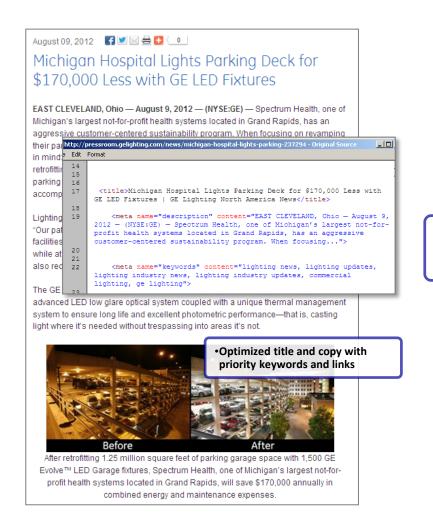
Case Study: Jim Beam

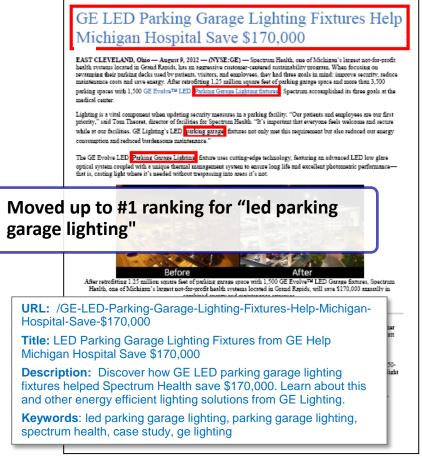


Kentucky Straight **Bourbon** Whiskey Liquor Drinks Jim Beam **Bourbon** ... Since 1795, Jim Beam has been making premium **Bourbon**. While a lot has changed in over 215 years, one thing that hasn't is the quality of Jim Beam products. www.jimbeam.com/kentucky-straight-**bourbon**-whiskey-history - Cached

Jim Beam's ranking for the keyword "bourbons" moved up to page 1

Case Study – GE Lighting



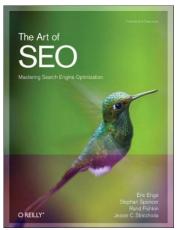


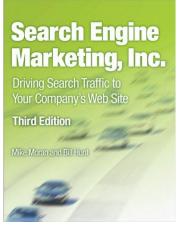


SEO Optimized News Release Checklist

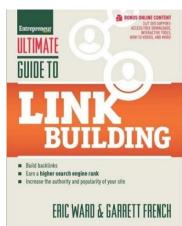
- Are my priority keywords targeted to my intended audience?
- Is my title leveraging my top priority keywords?
- Does my nut graph include my priority keywords?
- Are my priority keywords used evenly throughout the copy?
- Are my links optimized with priority keywords in anchor text?
- Is my footer optimized with links?

SEO Resources











Google AdWords Keyword Tool: www.google.com/adwords

Moz guides, blogs, and tools: http://moz.com/learn/seo, <a href="http://moz.com/learn/seo, <

A great blog on Google patens and SEO: http://www.seobythesea.com/

Google Webmaster Central blog: http://googlewebmastercentral.blogspot.com/

Search Engine Watch: http://searchenginewatch.com/ Search Engine Land: http://searchengineland.com/

SEO Book blog, tools, and training: http://www.seobook.com/blog, http://tools.seobook.com/blog, <a href="http://tools.seobook.com/blog, <a href="http://tools.seobook.com/blog, <a href="http://tools.seobook.com/blog, <a href

