

Google accused of manipulating searches, burying negative stories about Hillary Clinton

By [Valerie Richardson](#) -

An explosive report released Thursday suggests that [Google](#) manipulated its search engine to boost Democratic presidential hopeful [Hillary Clinton](#) by burying unflattering stories about her. A video posted by SourceFed, a news and pop-culture website, accused [Google](#) of attempting to boost secretly [Mrs. Clinton](#)'s candidacy.

“Thanks to the help of our editor Spencer Reed, SourceFed has discovered that [Google](#) has been actively altering search recommendations in favor of [Hillary Clinton](#)'s campaign so quietly that we were unable to see it for what it was until today,” said SourceFed's Matt Lieberman in the video.

For example, when typing “[Hillary Clinton](#) cri,” [Google](#)'s auto-complete function brings up as its top choice “[Hillary Clinton](#) crime reform,” even though competing search engines Bing and Yahoo show the most popular search topics are “[Hillary Clinton](#) criminal charges” and “[Hillary Clinton](#) crime.”

While that could reflect legitimate differences in the engines' algorithms, Mr. Lieberman said that a search of “[Hillary Clinton](#) crime reform” on [Google](#) trends showed that “there weren't even enough searches of term to build a graph on the site.”

“Which begs the question, why on Earth is it the first potential result?” he said, adding, “Apparently far more people are searching for ‘[Hillary Clinton](#) crimes’ than ‘[Hillary Clinton](#) crime reform.’ [Google](#) just doesn't want you to know or ask.”

SourceFed found a similar result when typing in, “[Hillary Clinton](#) ind,” which yielded “Hillary Clinton Indiana” and “Hillary Clinton India” on [Google](#), but “[Hillary Clinton](#) indictment” on the other search engines.

“The intention is clear. [Google](#) is burying potential searches for terms that could have hurt [Hillary Clinton](#) in the primary elections over the past several months by manipulating recommendations on their site,” Mr. Lieberman said.

There was no difference between [Google](#) and other search engines when SourceFed searched for unflattering terms associated with Democrat Bernie Sanders and Republican Donald Trump.

In the video, Mr. Lieberman emphasized that SourceFed was not accusing [Google](#) of any crimes, calling the manipulation “deeply unethical and wrong but not illegal,” and adding that there is no evidence to suggest collusion between the Clinton campaign and [Google](#).

On the other hand, Mr. Lieberman did say that “there are a stunning number of links between [Google](#) and her campaign,” starting with former [Google](#) CEO Eric Schmidt, an active [Clinton](#) backer who runs a [Clinton](#) campaign data-analysis contracting firm.

[Google](#) did not return immediately Thursday evening a request for comment.

The allegations by SourceFed, whose YouTube page shows 1.7 million subscribers, come on the heels of an Internet scandal involving allegations that Facebook manipulated its “trending topics” section to omit conservative-friendly stories.

SEE THE VIDEO:

<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/9/google-accused-burying-negative-hillary-clinton-st/>

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