

## THE EVOLUTION OF GOOGLE SEARCH RESULTS PAGES & THEIR EFFECTS ON USER BEHAVIOUR







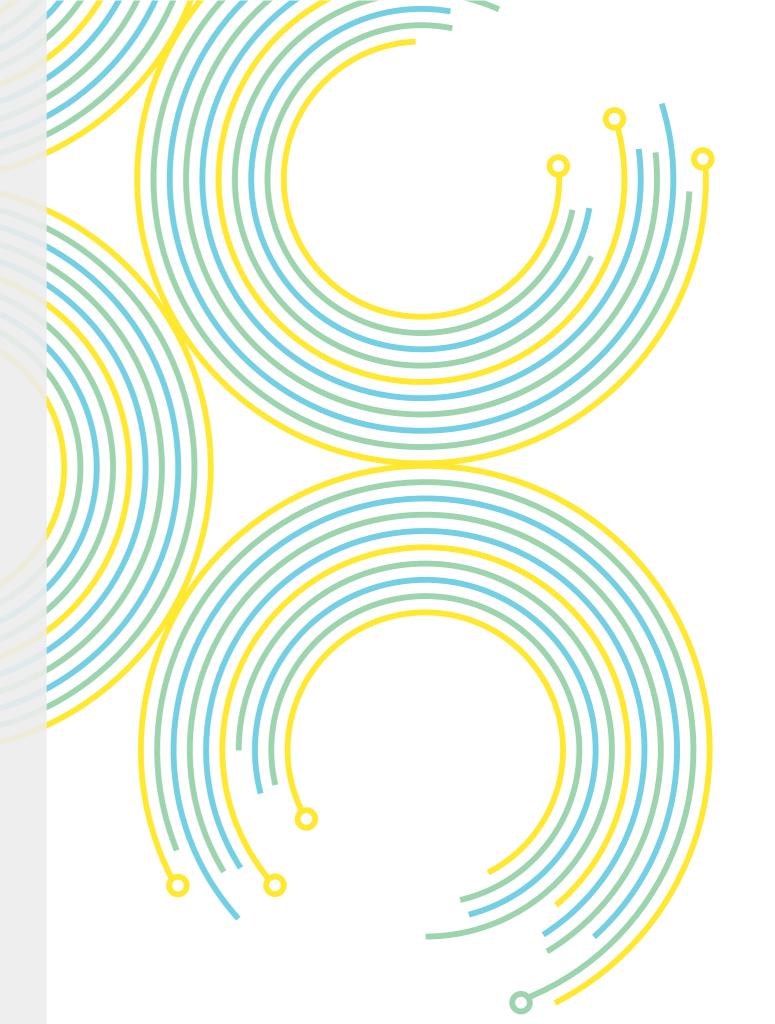
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03 INTRODUCTION
- 04 STUDY OVERVIEW
  Methodology and goals
- 06 COMPARATIVE VIEW 2005 vs. 2014 Google SERPs
- 11 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
  What we learned and what this means to you
- 20 DEEP DIVE
  The new SERP elements
- 58 METRICS
  What's changed and what's still valuable
- 60 IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

  National advertisers, location-based
  businesses, and online publishers
- 72 INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS

  Average click-through rates per SERP element
- 77 APPENDIX

  Project contributors and more about Mediative



### INTRODUCTION

Google SERPs have greatly evolved over the last decade, and as a result, so have the ways in which searchers have been conditioned to behave.

Organic listings have been a longstanding KPI for online marketers. In 2014, however, new Google SERP elements are shifting priorities and driving changes in strategy. In a nutshell: it's not always about getting the #1 Google ranking anymore.

User intent, relevant content, brand power, paid vs. organic results, an ever-changing algorithm...all are pieces of an increasingly complex puzzle. The goal of this research? To help you improve your odds of being seen—and clicked on—by the right audience.

**ORGANIC** ALGORITHM **SPONSORED** SEARCH **RANKING** SOCIAL MEDIA

The acronym "SERP" is used throughout this study, and refers to "Search Engine Results Page".

# HOW THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



53

participants

Mixed age and gender



43

search tasks

Conducted on a desktop

Used Google search engine



AO

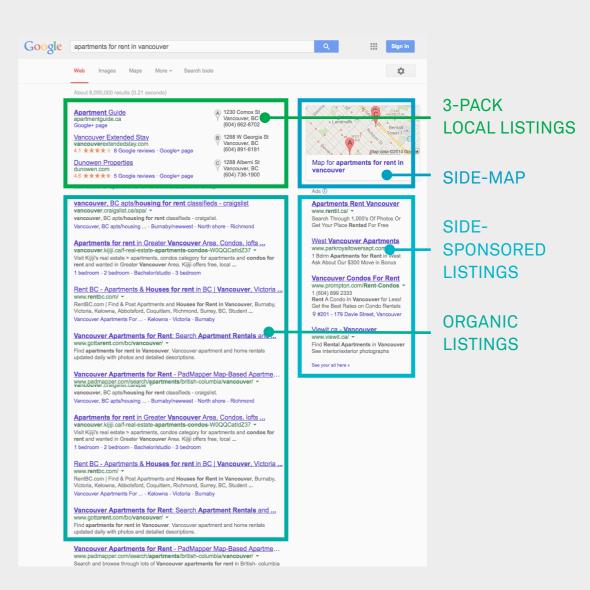
Areas of Interest

Metrics measured:

- Time to first look
- Time spent looking
- % of participants looking
- Number of clicks\*

### Example search task:

"Imagine you are moving from Toronto to Vancouver and are looking for an apartment. Use Google to find apartments for rent."



<sup>\*</sup>Although we had a very small sample size when it comes to click-through rates, we felt that it would be instructive to look at clicks and how they're distributed across the different elements of the SERP.

### WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW



Where on the SERP do searchers look and click the most?



How important is the location of a listing to win views and clicks from searchers?



How does the complex SERP affect your strategy to be found and seen by your potential customers?

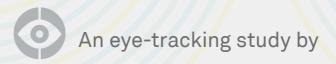


How has click activity per listing position changed with the introduction of Google's new SERP elements?





## COMPARATIVE VIEW



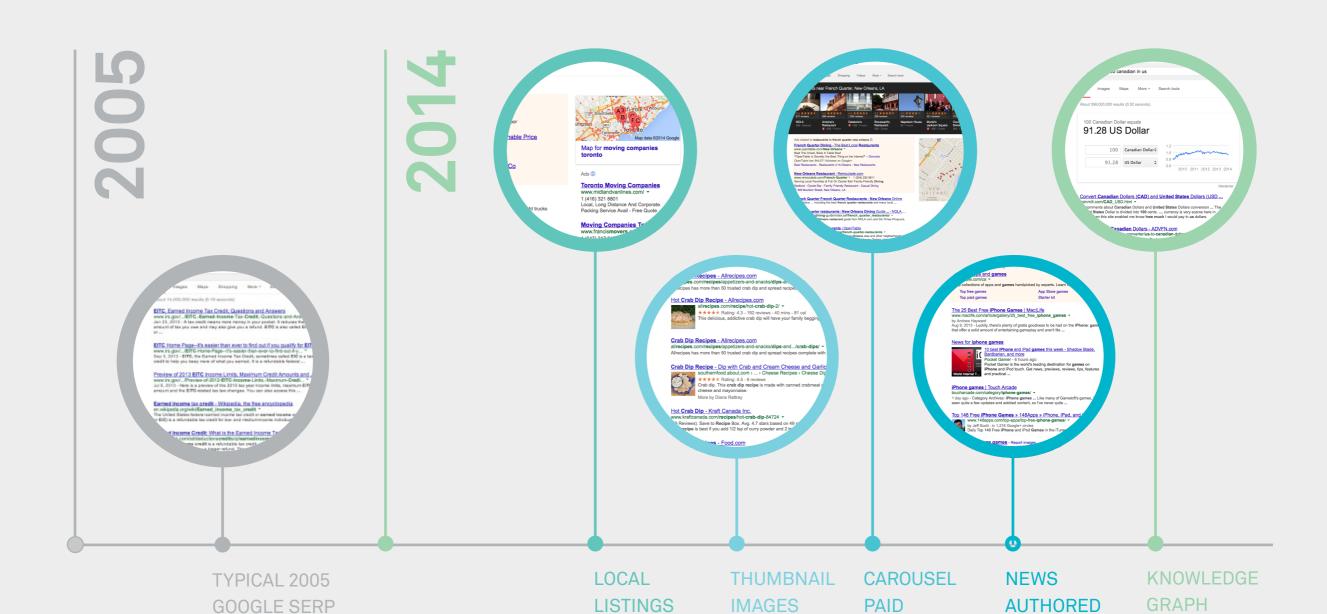


## THE EVOLUTION OF GOOGLE SERPs

2005 VS. 2014 Google's algorithm and search results pages have changed significantly since 2005.

This means people have changed the way they look at, and click on, the results.

### GOOGLE SERPS: 2005 VS. 2014



RIGHT RAIL

MAP

STAR

RATINGS

LISTINGS

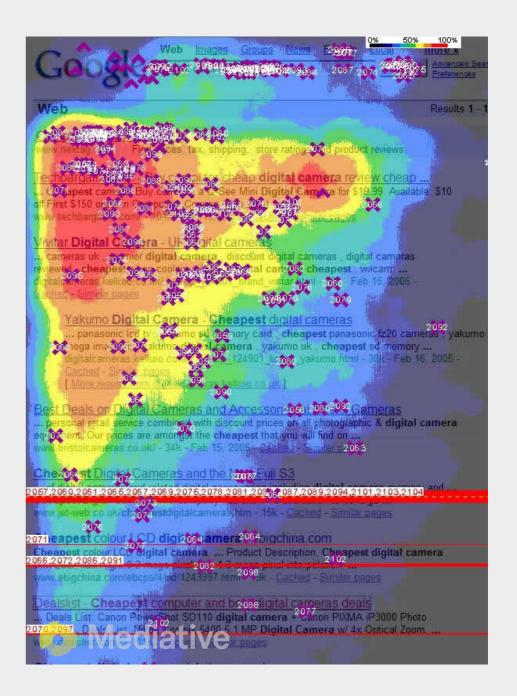
BLOG

**POSTS** 

### 2005: THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The Golden Triangle is an area of concentrated gaze activity at the topleft corner of a search results page.

The 2005 study\* revealed that, generally speaking, if your listing was not in the Golden Triangle, your odds of being seen by a searcher were dramatically reduced.



As with all the relative heat maps presented in this study, the red areas are those where participants spent the most amount of time looking as a percentage of the total time they looked at the page, followed by yellow, then green.

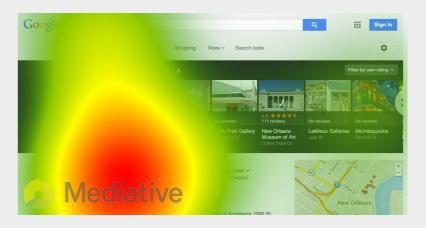
<sup>\*</sup> The Golden Triangle was first discovered by Enquiro in a ground-breaking 2005 study, "Google Eye Tracking Report: How Searchers See and Click on Google Search Results" which can be downloaded here: mdv.to/YwdG9v. Enquiro became part of Mediative in October 2010.

### 2014: NEW SERP HEAT MAPS

Google keeps adding various elements to its search results page. These new SERP elements, depending on how relevant they are to the intent of the searcher, can cause a different search pattern. As a result, the highly coveted Google Triangle no longer always exists in 2014.

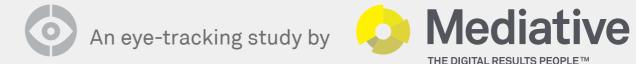






¬ The #1 organic result in no longer always in the top left corner, so we see initial gaze drift down to other SERP elements.







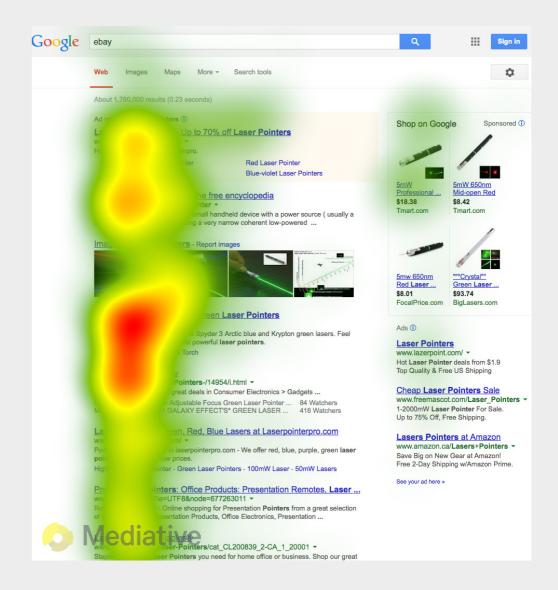
# WHAT WE LEARNED

### In 2014, searchers look outside the Golden Triangle because...

Top organic results are no longer always in the top-left corner so users look elsewhere to find them.

2

Mobile devices have habitually conditioned searchers to scan vertically more than horizontally. Searchers are looking for the fastest path to the desired content.



¬ The distinct triangle shape is not visible because searchers are scanning vertically more than they are reading horizontally.

# WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

1

SEO strategy is no longer a one-size-fits-all approach.

2

Paid search can give your brand views and attention just like a display ad, even if not necessarily garnering clicks.



A combination of SEO and paid search can maximize your visibility in SERP areas that have the biggest impact on both branding and traffic.

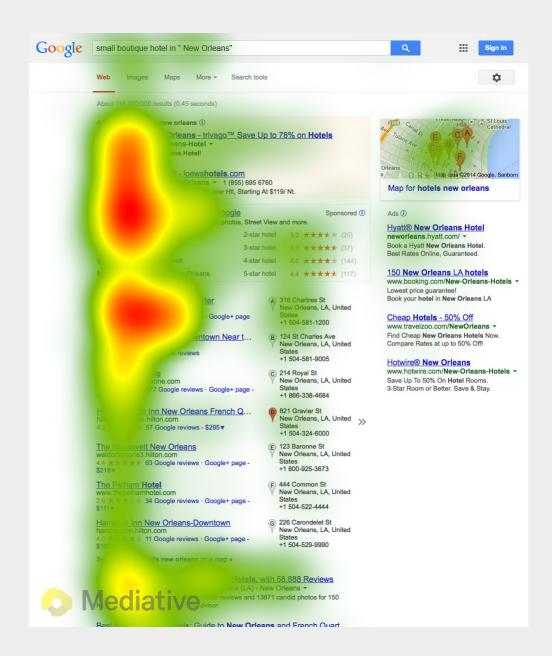
# WHAT WE LEARNED

In 2014, searchers spend their time differently on SERPs.

People are viewing more search results listings during a single session and spending less time viewing each one.

2

Now, searchers spend just over 1.17 seconds viewing each listing. In 2005, it was just under 2 seconds.



<sup>7</sup> The average user scanned more listings in 2014
vs. 2005 before making a click, but spent less time
looking at each listing.

# WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

1

Keywords, meta descriptions, content, ratings and reviews are all tactics that must be used to align with scan behaviour.

2

Proper code mark-up (i.e. schema) should be used wherever possible—it is one of the most under-used, yet highly effective SEO tools that helps the engines crawl, index and rank a site's content.



The key for organic and sponsored positioning success is to front-load relevant content and text—while always keeping the user's intent top of mind.

66

Google search is used at some point in almost every purchase decision process. As a business, you have just over 1 second to capture your customers' attention, so your content better be relevant.

"

Rebecca Maynes, Marketing Strategist, Mediative

# WHAT WE LEARNED

## Prime real estate on SERPs has migrated.

1

Businesses that are positioned lower on the SERP (especially positions 2-4) see more click activity than they did several years ago, making this real estate much more valuable.

2

The #1 Organic Listing still captures the most click activity (32.8%), regardless of what new elements are presented.



¬ The #1 Organic Listing is shifting further down
the page, opening up the top of the page with more
potential areas for businesses to achieve visibility.

## WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

1

The importance of your business being the first listing vs. on the first page is highly dependent on the searcher's intent, plus the strength of your brand.

2

The top organic spot can be difficult to obtain, especially for businesses that are competing with big brands where, even if a high ranking is achieved, capturing audience traffic is a challenge.



Make sure to incorporate search engine marketing into your strategy, paying close attention to relevancy and searcher intent. Paid search can allow your brand to be seen, especially if you're competing with bigger brands for top Organic Listings.

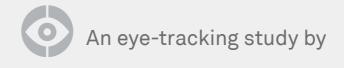
People are searching smarter, and faster—search engines are adapting to that and businesses need to also. Google is building a smarter search engine and working on anticipating what it is that searchers are actually looking for.

1 lan Everdell, UX and Research Manager, Mediative



## DEEP DIVE: THE NEW SERP ELEMENTS

- 22 KNOWLEDGE GRAPH
- 29 CAROUSEL
- 34 LOCAL LISTINGS
- 39 ORGANIC LISTINGS
- 49 SPONSORED LISTINGS

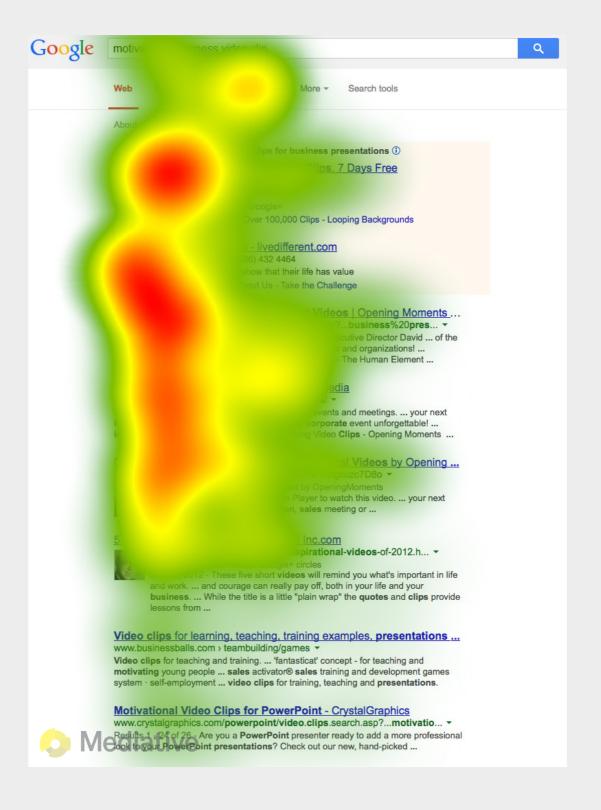




# THE EFFECTS OF NEW SERP ELEMENTS

Google's newest additions to its search results pages (Knowledge Graph, Local Listings, Carousel...) are geared towards consumer-related queries; but depending on how relevant they are to the intent of the searcher, they can disrupt regular search patterns.

By virtue of the fact that searchers are finding it increasingly difficult to predict the location of the most relevant result, they have a tendency to scan through elements more quickly and linearly than before.



→ The top organic result is no longer always in the top left corner, so we see initial gaze going to a number of different elements.

## KNOWLEDGE GRAPH

Google's Knowledge Graph provides structured and detailed information when people search for facts. This means that users may find what they were searching for without having to click through to other sites



See page 73 for Knowledge Graph click-through rate benchmarking information.

### Google

#### how much is 100 canadian in us

Veb Images Maps More ▼ Search tools

About 356,000,000 results (0.32 seconds)



### Convert Canadian Dollars (CAD) and United States Dollars (USD ... coinmill.com/CAD\_USD.html -

25 comments about **Canadian** Dollars and **United States** Dollars conversion ... The **United States** Dollar is divided into **100** cents. .... currency is very scarce here in nigeria,then this site enabled me know **how much** I would pay in **us** dollars.

#### Convert US to Canadian Dollars - ADVFN.com

www.advfn.com/currency-converter/us-to-canadian-dollar.html ▼
Convert US to Canadian Dollars Foreign Exchange Currency Converter and Calculator.
Convert more than ... world currencies. Live real time FOREX spot prices.

### Convert United States Dollar to Canadian Dollar | USD to CAD ... themoneyconverter.com/USD/CAD.aspx -

Convert USD to CAD Currency: United States Dollar (USD), Country: United States of America, Region: North America, Currency: Canadian Dollar (CAD), Country: Canada. ... Several countries use the U.S. dollar as their official currency, and many others allow it to be used in a de facto ... Sub-Unit: 1 Dollar = 100 cents.

## How Much Are You Paying For US Dollars? - Canadian Couch Potato canadian couch potato.com/.../how-much-are-you-paying-for-us-dollars/ ▼ Dec 17, 2012 - 0.01193378 × 100 = 1.19%. Assume you're an investor who wants to convert \$10,000 CAD to US dollars. How much would it cost? You can ...

### How much is 100 Canadian dollars worth in the US right now wiki.answers.com > Wiki Answers > Categories > Shopping ▼

How much is 100 sandaang piso worth in Canadian dollars? maybe a dollre and half. How much is a Canadian 100 dollar gold coin worth? As of January, 2013, ...

## Yahoo Canada Answers - How much is 100 \$ Canadian worth in ... ca.answers.yahoo.com > ... > Other - Business & Finance ▼ Apr 16, 2009 - It changes daily. You can use this yahoo calculator. \$1 US buys \$1.20 CDN right now.

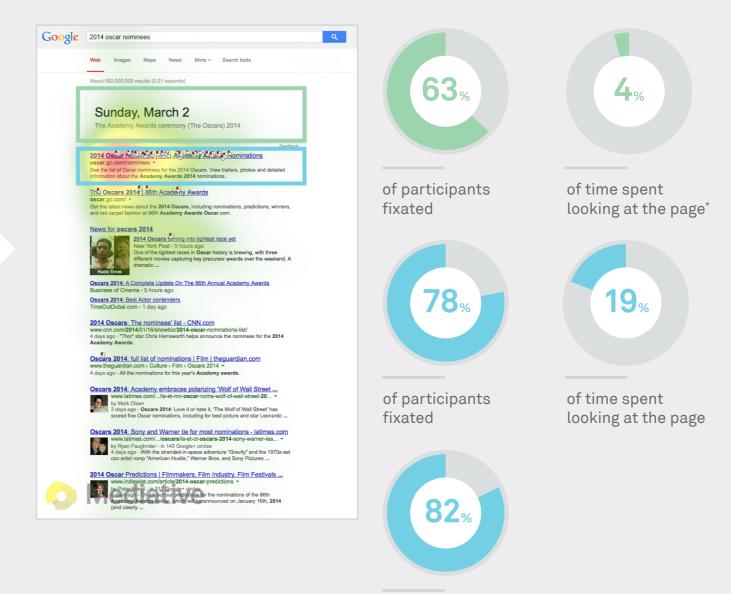
# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH: IRRELEVANT TO QUERY

An irrelevant Knowledge Graph will potentially drive the user's attention towards the Organic Listings.

#### Search task:

Imagine that you're hosting a party for the Oscars and want to print off a list of the nominees for your guests to try to pick winners.

Use Google to find a list of the 2014 Oscars nominees.



of page clicks

<sup>\*</sup>Time spent looking at this area of interest as a percentage of the entire time spent looking at the page before a click was made.

# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH: IRRELEVANT TO QUERY

An irrelevant Knowledge Graph will potentially drive the user's attention towards the Organic Listings.



### Content strategy for SEO

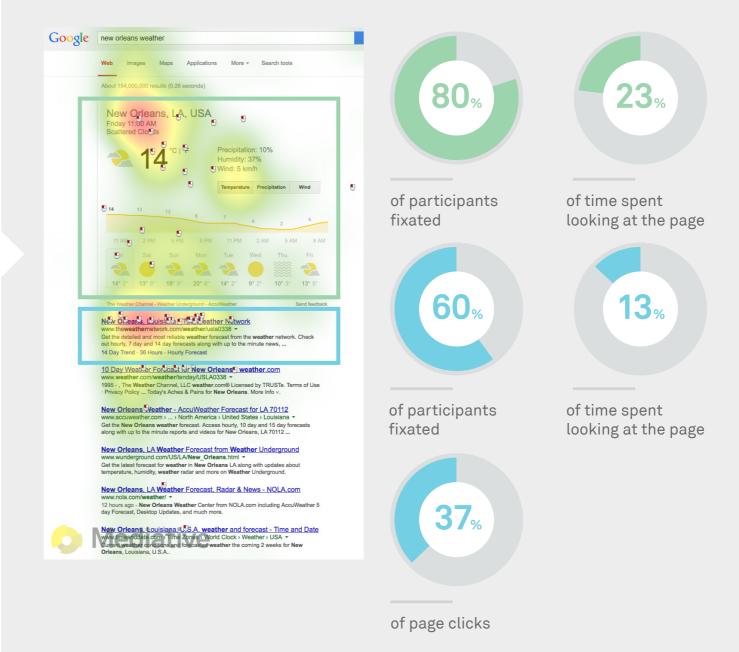
Knowledge Graph results appear mostly in response to a factual or numerical search, or when the search relates to a famous person, place or thing. Focus content development on providing the answers to the potential search query as this will help ensure your website is listed as high up as possible in the organic results below the Knowledge Graph.

# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH: RELEVANT TO QUERY

A relevant Knowledge
Graph result has the
potential to capture
a significant amount
of attention away from
the Organic Listings.

#### Search task:

Imagine you're traveling to New Orleans and are wondering what the weather will be like. Use Google to find out what the weather in New Orleans is.



# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH: RELEVANT TO QUERY

A relevant Knowledge Graph result has the potential to capture a significant amount of attention away from the Organic Listings.



### Front-load content

With a relevant Knowledge Graph result, searchers won't even have to click through to a site, so some businesses will see a decline in traffic to their site. A first or second place Organic Listing is desirable to minimize traffic loss. Front-load content in meta data and title tags, and use schema mark-up where possible to make your business listing stand out, distracting the searcher's attention away from the Knowledge Graph as much as possible.

# KNOWLEDGE GRAPH VS. ORGANIC LISTING

Though the top Organic
Listing may see a decrease
in clicks when a Knowledge
Graph is relevant vs.
irrelevant, it is still
looked at by the majority
of participants. Brand
awareness may therefore
still result from the organic
impression received.

#### IRRELEVANT KNOWLEDGE GRAPH RESULT



#### RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE GRAPH RESULT



66

Google is not thinking about how the Knowledge Graph will affect your website traffic—Google is concerned with providing the searcher with the most relevant information, and if it can do this without the searcher even having to leave their SERP, all the better!

SEO Group Manager, Mediative





restaurants in french quarter new orleans



ø

Shopping

Videos

More \*

Search tools



Ads related to restaurants in french quarter new orleans ①

#### French Quarter Dining - The Best Local Restaurants www.opentable.com/New-Orleans >

Beat The Crowd, Book A Table Now! "OpenTable Is Secretly the Best Thing on the Internet" - Gizmodo OpenTable has 944,671 followers on Google+ Best Restaurants - Restaurants in N.Orleans - New Restaurants

#### New Orleans Restaurant - Remoulade.com

www.remoulade.com/French-Quarter 1 (504) 230 0811 Serving Local Favorites & Full On Oyster Bar! Family-Friendly Dining. Seafood - Oyster Bar - Family Friendly Restaurant - Casual Dining

9 309 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA

French Quarter French Quarter Restaurants - New Orleans Online reservations ... including the best french quarter restaurants and many local ...

French Quarter restaurants | New Orleans Dining Guide ... - NOLA .... www.nola.com/dining-guide/index.ssf/french\_quarter\_restaurants/ > The difinitive New Orleans restaurant guide from NOLA.com and the Times-Picayune.

#### French Quarter Restaurants | OpenTable

www.opentable.com/new-orleans/french-quarter-restaurants > Find French Quarter restaurants in the New Orleans area and other neighborhoods such as New Orleans Central Business District, Warehouse District, Uptown ...

French Quarter - New Orleans - Reviews of French ... - TripAdvisor www.tripadvisor.com > ... > New Orleans > Things to Do in New Orleans ▼ \*\*\* ★ Rating: 4.5 - 4,086 reviews

Activities: Shopping, Dining, City walk sightseeing, Walking. Owner description: The heart and cultural center of New Orleans is the French Quarter, a must-see ...

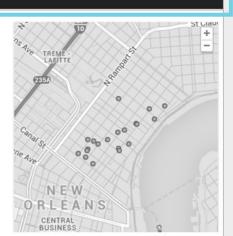
New Orleans, LA Restaurants: See 1,555 restaurants with 93,668 ... www.tripadvisor.com > United States > Louisiana (LA) > New Orleans ▼ Dining in New Orleans, Louisiana: See 93668 TripAdvisor traveler reviews of 1555 New Orleans ... New Orleans Restaurants. BETA ... French Quarter (138).

#### Olivier's Creole Restaurant, New Orleans - French Quarter Creole ... www.olivierscreole.com/ -

Olivier's Creole Restaurant, located in the New Orleans French Quarter on Decatur Street, serves authentic Louisiana cooking based on five generations of ...

10 Must-Try Restaurants Around the French Quarter in New Orlean... blog.zagat.com/2012/09/10-must-try-restaurants-around-french.html -Sep 4, 2012 - High-end art, Panama hats and exquisite antiques share real estate with voodoo trinkets, wild lingerie and hand-rolled cigars in the Quarter, ...

Dickie Bronnan and Co.

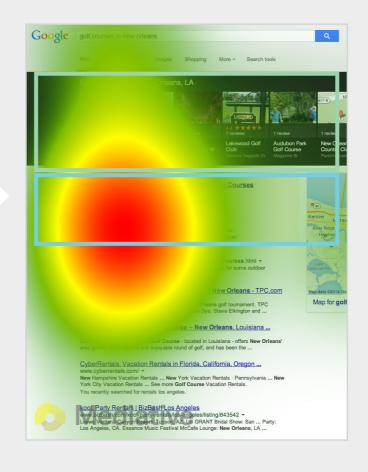


Though the Carousel is designed to provide searchers with results that more accurately correspond to their intent, it does not significantly hold their attention.

### Note: Unlike in the US, the Carousel is still a new feature in Canada, visible for only a limited number of searches.

#### Search task:

Imagine you are traveling to New Orleans and are looking for somewhere to play golf. Use Google to find a local golf course.





of participants fixated



increase in time spent looking at the top sponsored listing when on a page with a Carousel



increase in clicks to top sponsored listing when on a page with a Carousel

Though the Carousel is designed to provide searchers with results that more accurately correspond to their intent, it does not significantly hold their attention.



### Consider your ad campaigns

The introduction of the Carousel led to more intense activity on the sponsored listings directly below the Carousel.

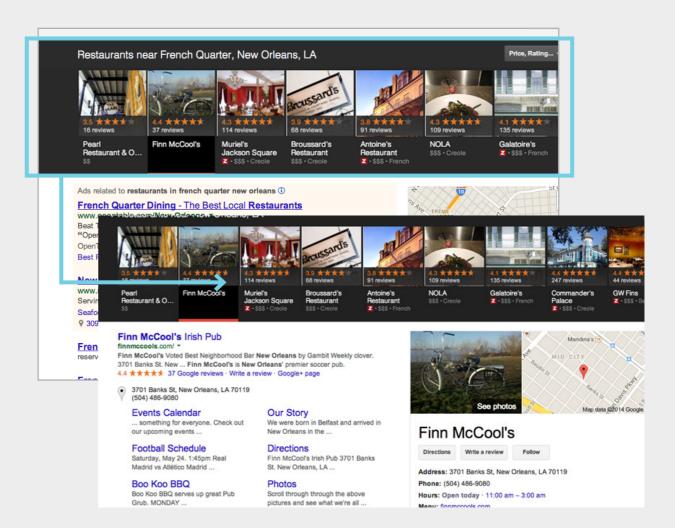
Sponsored listings on a page with a Carousel received significantly more attention and clicks than on the SERPs that did not have a Carousel.

Consider this behaviour when making adjustments to your paid ad campaign.

The Carousel has the potential to capture a significant amount of clicks, given its prime location. Google's intent is to help searchers find what they don't know they are looking for.



of page clicks captured



→ Clicking on a Carousel result will take
the searcher to a SERP dedicated to that
result.

The Carousel has the potential to capture a significant amount of clicks, given its prime location. Google's intent is to help searchers find what they don't know they are looking for.



### On-site and off-site SEO

You cannot control whether or not your business listing appears in Carousel results. However, your organic visibility will have a significant impact because of the post-click page result, therefore a strong overall SEO strategy (on-site and off-site) should be your focus. This should include Google+ Local optimization (images, location, star rating, etc.). Be sure to have citations and/or some sort of presence in Wikipedia, and also look into getting into Freebase. Google is trying to increase the time spent on the SERP, and you need to encourage the searcher to click to your site.

## LOCAL LISTINGS ABOVE OR BELOW ORGANIC

sometimes appearing above,



#### Google moving companies toronto





Sign in

Maps



About 27,000,000 results (0.30 seconds)

Ads related to moving companies toronto ①

Toronto Movers - \$55 /hr - mmovers.ca www.mmovers.ca/ ▼ 1 (416) 855 3068

Professional, Door To Door Movers From \$55 /hr Minimum 2 hr of labor

More ▼

Search tools

Toronto Moving Company - Honest & Reliable.Reasonable Price www.carefreemoving.ca/ ▼ 1 (416) 848 4561

No Hidden Fees.Get Your Free Quote!

Peterborough Movers - Peterborough County Moving Co www.peterboroughmovers.ca/ v 1 (705) 243 4639

Your local mover of choice.

#### The Best Movers in Toronto - blogTO

www.blogto.com/toronto/the\_best\_movers\_in\_toronto/ -

Nov 13, 2013 - Since 2000, this North York-based moving company with eight trucks has offered friendly, efficient moving and packing services across the GTA ...

#### Toronto Movers | Toronto Moving Company: You Move Me

\*\*\* Rating: 10/10 - Review by George Felluga, Toronto - Jul 29, 2013 You Move Me is a full service moving company in Toronto. Our friendly movers provide both packing and moving services in Toronto. Book and get \$50 off! More by Ashton Lubman

#### TWO MEN AND A TRUCK®, Movers, Professional moving company...

Company Logo ... Take a look inside North America's largest local moving franchise company. We write about all things ... by Nick from Toronto on 11/25/ 2013.

Locations/Contact - Free Moving Quotes - Local Home Moves - Movers In Ottawa

#### Tender Touch Moving Company - Toronto ... www.tendertouchmoving.com

1 Google review

#### Energy Crew Moving & Transportation

3.4 ★★★★ 12 Google reviews · Google+ page

#### Miracle Movers www.mmovers.ca

3.5 ★★★★★ 26 Google reviews

#### Toronto Moving (Movers) www.toronto-moving.ca

4.6 ★★★★ 12 Google reviews

#### Easy Toronto Moving Movers Inc www.easytorontomovingmovers.info

4.9 ★★★★ 8 Google reviews · Google+ page

#### Toronto Moving Company www.torontomoving.net

3.9 ★★★★ 5 Google reviews · Google+ page

#### Trans Moving Toronto(movers) easy-moving.ca

3.7 ★★★★ 11 Google reviews

See results for moving companies toronto on a map »

A 555 Trethewey Drive Toronto, ON

B 1655 Dupont St #205 Toronto, ON (416) 907-4824

© 11 Munition St Toronto, ON (416) 855-3068

D Toronto, ON (416) 567-7467

E) 1235 Bay St #400 Toronto, ON (647) 258-5436

F 75 York St Toronto, ON (416) 708-1730

G 88 Bloor St E Toronto, ON (416) 520-3575

#### Toronto Moving Company, Moving Services | Rent-a-Son, Toronto

A Toronto moving company offering award winning residential, commercial and long distance moving services.

#### Moving & Storage in Toronto reviews on HomeStars homestars.com/on/toronto/moving-storage

Reviews of Moving & Storage companies in Toronto. Homeowners share experiences on home contractors and retailers. Relevant results for Moving Company, ...

#### Toronto Moving Companies - Downtown Core - Toronto, ON | Yelp

www.yelp.ca > Home Services > Movers ▼ Toronto Moving Companies Toronto reviews by real people. Yelp is a fun and easy way

#### Map for moving companies toronto

Ads ①

#### **Toronto Moving Companies** www.midlandvanlines.com/ -

Local, Long Distance And Corporate. Packing Service Avail - Free Quote

#### **Moving Companies Toronto** www.francismovers.com/

1 (647) 317 5420 Apartment Moving Services For Over 25 Years, Call Our Movers Now,

#### GTA Toronto Moving Co www.gtamoving.com/

1 (416) 523 6683 Nobody Beats Our Prices! Professional, \$59/hr 416-523-MOVE

#### The GTA & Toronto Movers www.wemovegta.com/ -

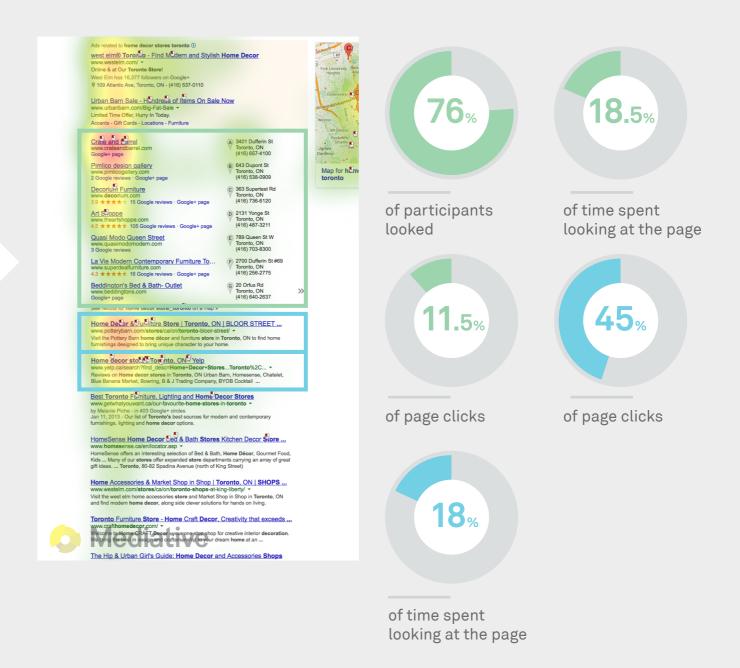
Moving Services From \$49 Call Us or Get Your Instant Quote Online

## LOCAL LISTINGS ABOVE ORGANIC

The ability of Local Listings to attract attention and win clicks is dependent on the placement of the Local Listings box on the SERP, and on the nature of the search query.

#### Search task:

Imagine you're renovating your rec room and need to purchase some home décor items. Use Google to find home décor stores in Toronto.



## LOCAL LISTINGS ABOVE ORGANIC

The ability of Local Listings to attract attention and win clicks is dependant on the placement of the Local Listings box on the SERP, and on the nature of the search query.



### Optimize your Google+ Local Profile

Google+ Local pages are directly tied to the appearance and position in a local search query. Correct business name, address, phone number (consistent across all web properties), star ratings, and reviews will help to ensure your business is listed, and seen by searchers.

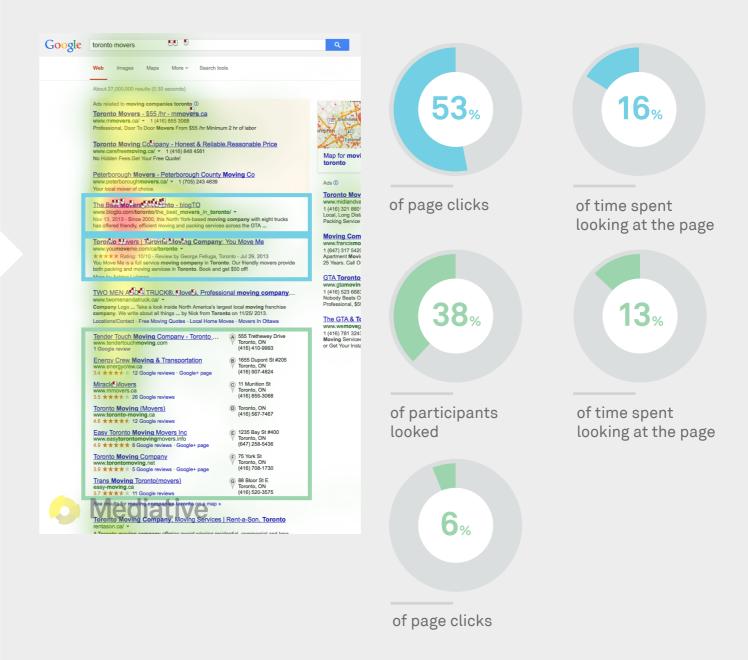
Note: Position within the Local Listings box had the largest influence over views and clicks, followed by star ratings. 45% of all clicks within the Local Listing box were to the top 2 listings, and 51% of time spent looking within the Local Listing box was at the top 2 listings.

## LOCAL LISTINGS BELOW ORGANIC

Local Listings captured most attention when physical location was more important to searchers than choice, comparison and reviews (e.g. in the search for a home store).

#### Search task:

Imagine you're moving from Toronto to Vancouver. Use Google to find a moving company in Toronto.



## LOCAL LISTINGS BELOW ORGANIC

Local Listings captured most attention when physical location was more important to searchers than choice, comparison and reviews (e.g. in the search for a home store).



# Concentrate on on-site SEO

In the event that the Local Listings box is positioned further down the SERP, a strong on-site SEO strategy will help move your own website listing further up the page. Start by looking at page content and ensure you're using relevant keywords. Front-load heading tags and title tags with intent-based keywords, and make sure pages are interlinked.

These are the traditional



Google restaurants near eaton centre

Sign in

•

Maps More ▼ Search tools

About 251,000 results (0.29 seconds)

#### Best restaurants near the eaton centre Toronto, ON - Yelp

www.yelp.ca/search?find desc...restaurants+near...eaton+centre... • Reviews on Best restaurants near the eaton centre in Toronto, ON Urban Eatery at the Eaton Centre, JOEY Eaton Centre, Trattoria Mercatto, Bannock, George, ..

#### Restaurants near Eaton Centre, Toronto - Urbanspoon

www.urbanspoon.com > Toronto > Landmarks \*

Find the best restaurants near Eaton Centre, Toronto.

#### Toronto.com - Best Restaurants Near the Eaton Centre

www.toronto.com/articles/best-restaurants-near-the-eaton-centre/

Mar 4, 2013 - Just because you're spending the day at the Eaton Centre doesn't mean you have to settle for dinner at the food court. Filled with countless ...

#### Restaurants near Eaton Centre, Toronto - Gogobot

www.gogobot.com > Canada > Ontario > Toronto > Things to do ▼

★★★★ Rating: 4.5 - 21 votes

January 15, 2014: Find 1142 restaurants near Eaton Centre in Toronto, Canada, visited by over 48319 people.

#### Bâton Rouge Eaton Centre | Find the restaurant Bâton Rouge Eaton ...

www.batonrougerestaurants.com/...restaurant.../baton-rouge-eaton-centre... Bâton Rouge Eaton Centre restaurant, opening hours and driving directions for  $\dots$ opening hours and driving directions for a Bâton Rouge restaurant near you.

#### JOEY Eaton Centre - JOEY Restaurants

www.joeyrestaurants.com/eaton-centre -

JOEY Eaton Center restaurant in downtown Toronto. Open air dining, Enomatic wine system, and trendy architecture make JOEY Eaton Center the best premium ...

#### Good food near the Eaton Centre - Bannock, Toronto Traveller ...

www.tripadvisor.ca > ... > Toronto > Toronto Restaurants > Bannock ▼

\*\*\* Rating: 4 - Review by a TripAdvisor user - Aug 23, 2012 Bannock: Good food near the Eaton Centre - See 128 traveler reviews, 19 candid photos, and great deals for ... Ranked #111 of 6,396 restaurants in Toronto.

#### Toronto Restaurants in Yonge & Dundas - blogTO

www.blogto.com/restaurants/n/86/yonge-dundas-toronto -

12 O' Lunch is a recently re-branded family-owned Korean restaurant near Dundas and University that used to be called Lunch Market. Inside, there are hanging ...

#### Eaton Centre Restaurants - ResToronto Reviews

www.restoronto-reviews.com/malls/Eaton-Centre/

Find restaurants in and close to Toronto Eaton Centre, including restaurant reviews and a full dining guide.

#### Baton Rouge Restaurant (Eaton Centre) - Toronto, ON | Dine.TO

www.dine.to > Yonge Downtown -

★★★★ Rating: 88% - 112 votes

Jul 14, 2012 - Bâton Rouge is Toronto's casually elegant eating establishment for business lunches, shoppers and theatre goers. We feature only the best ...

#### Searches related to restaurants near eaton centre

joey eaton centre

restaurants near eaton chelsea

coffee shops near eaton centre restaurants near marriott eaton centre

best restaurants marriott eaton centre indian restaurants near eaton centre bars near eaton centre

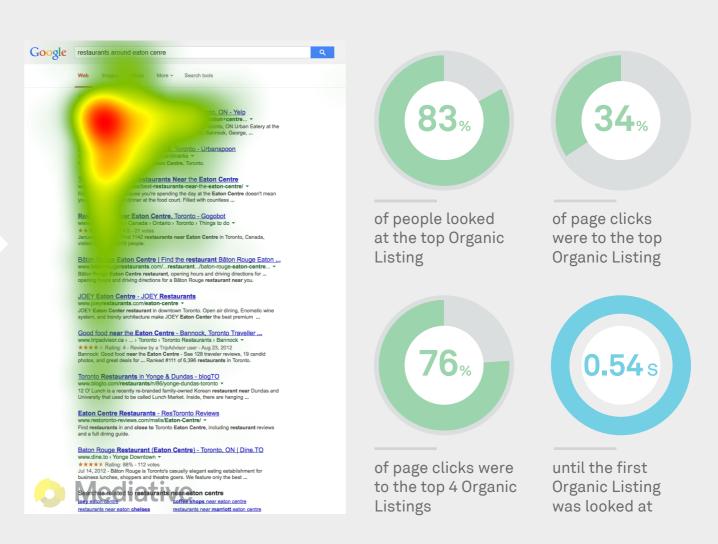
halal restaurants near eaton centre



Help Send feedback Privacy & Terms

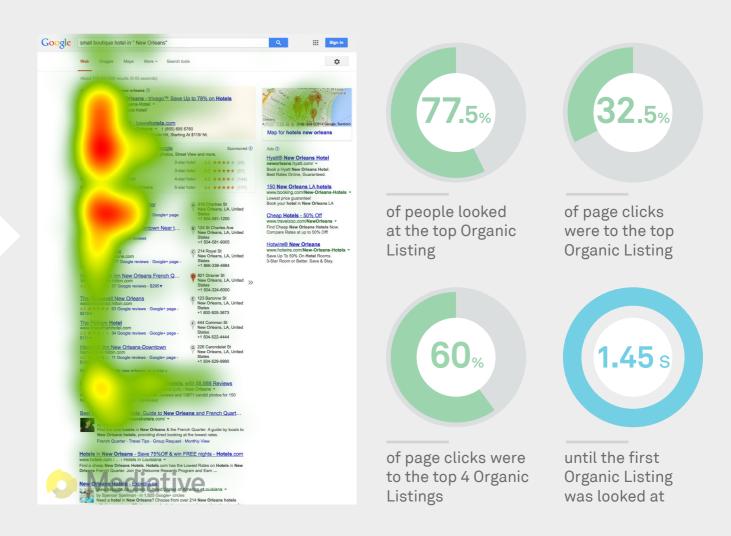
When only Organic Listings are present on the SERP, the search pattern is still similar to the traditional Golden Triangle behaviour. However, page scanning is quicker, and less horizontal.

#### SERP featuring only Organic Listings:



When new elements are introduced to the SERP, it takes longer for people to see the top Organic Listing. It is not viewed for as long, or by as many participants. Searchers are still looking for the top Organic Listing. They are distracted on their path to this listing, but not enough to affect clicks.

SERP featuring multiple elements in addition to Organic Listings:



Getting as close to the top of the rankings is still the name of the game... The evolution of clicks across the entire study:





of all clicks were to "next page". If your business is not listed on the first page, it might as well not exist online.



more clicks from informational searches\* were below the 4<sup>th</sup> Organic Listing vs. navigational searches.

<sup>\*</sup> Most people use a search engine to gather alternatives/ research options ("informational" searches) or to go directly to a site that best matches the particular need at the time ("navigational" searches).

...but it's not only about being #1.

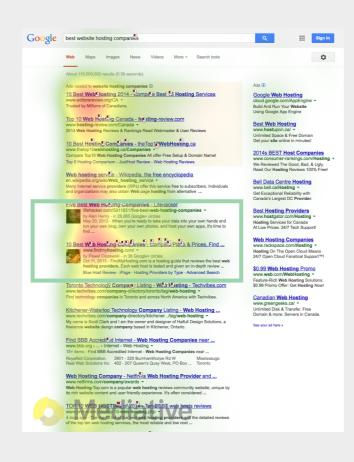


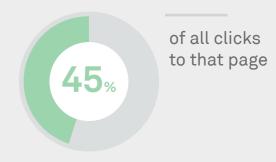
Earning a first place organic ranking can be extremely difficult without an endless budget. Over half of the page clicks were won by areas of the SERP above the 4th Organic Listing. It is worth considering other areas to appear in if you're looking to improve website traffic, rather than focusing all efforts on ranking #1. Knowing the searcher's intent can help determine your investment in trying to appear higher in the SERP. E.g. If searchers come to your site via an informational search, you can afford to be lower on the page as it takes longer for people to make a selection for these searches, and they tend to scroll much further down the page than with navigational searches.

## ORGANIC LISTINGS: AUTHORED POSTS\*

The effect of authorship mark-up\* on search can enhance engagement, even when results are listed further down the page.

#### The 2 authored posts\* on the page captured:





The top clicked authored posts were those that had titles such as:

- Best...
- Reviews of...
- Top 5...
- How-to...

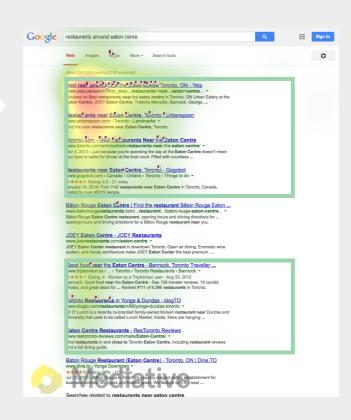
<sup>\*</sup>On August 28, 2014, Google announced that it had removed authored posts from search. However, Google's John Mueller states "Search users will still see Google+posts from friends and pages when they're relevant to the query." The Google+results appear similar to an authored post.

# ORGANIC LISTINGS: REVIEW SITES

In searching for a new experience, peer reviews are most important. People will focus more attention on a review listing regardless of position on the page.

#### Search task:

Imagine that you're getting ready for Valentine's Day and you want to find a restaurant for dinner before your movie. Use Google to find a restaurant near the Eaton Centre.





of clicks in a search for restaurants were to popular review/ rating sites

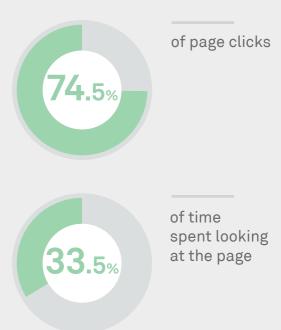
## ORGANIC LISTINGS: STAR RATINGS

Star ratings, combined with thumbnail images, have the potential to garner clicks.

#### Search task:

Imagine that you're hosting a party for the Oscars. Use Google to find a recipe for crab dip.





Star ratings, combined with thumbnail images, have the potential to garner clicks.



### Utilize schema mark-up

Only 0.3%\* of websites use schema mark-up, yet over 33% of Google's results contain rich snippets (additional text, images and links below the individual search results). Rich-snippets can increase CTRs of listings by 15-50%\*\* and websites using schema mark-up tend to rank higher in search results. Use schema mark-up to include star ratings, number of reviews, and more which will increase your chances of being noticed, and clicked on, by searchers.

<sup>\*</sup> Searchmetrics.com

<sup>\*\*</sup> BruceClay.com

66

The importance of being the first listing vs. listed somewhere above the top 4 organic results is very dependent on the type of business you are in, the searcher's intent, plus the strength of your brand. Businesses in retail, food/beverage, consumer goods, electronics, personal services, entertainment & recreation, and automotive industries, to name a few, will potentially still benefit from attention and traffic to their listing, even if it's not the #1 organic result.

> Rebecca Maynes, Marketing Strategist, Mediative

meet searcher intent, increase

Google big screen tv reviews

More ▼ Search tools



About 391,000,000 results (0.40 seconds)

Ads related to big screen tv reviews (1)

Get TVs at Future Shop - futureshop.ca

www.futureshop.ca/TVs -

The Lowest Prices on TVs at Future Shop With our Price Beat Promise.

Reserve and Pick Up Fast, Free Shipping Find a Store Our Price Beat Promise

Samsung TV Canada - Samsung TV reviews and ratings www.samsung.com/ca/tv-reviews -

Visit & see what owners are saving.

Samsung Canada has 2,732 followers on Google+

LED TVs - Plasma TVs - TV Accessories - Smart TVs

Big Screen TV Reviews - Over 100 Million Visitors - Ask.com

www.ask.com/Big+Screen+TV+Reviews -

Discover and Explore on Ask.com! Top 10 US Web Brand of 2013 - Nielsen Newswire

Ask.com has 8,467 followers on Google+

TV Reviews: LCD TVs, flat-screen TVs, plasma TVs, 3D TVs - CNET... reviews.cnet.com/televisions/

Television reviews and ratings, video reviews, user opinions, most popular tvs, ... a few inches from a wall and project a 720P HD image as large as 100 inches. Best TVs - Best TVs: Picture quality - Panasonic TC-P60ZT60 - Reviews

#### Best TVs (64 inches and above) - CNET Reviews



reviews.cnet.com/best-64-inches-and-above-tvs/

by David Katzmaier - in 1,363 Google+ circles Dec 19, 2013 - CNET editors review the best TVs 64 inches and above with videos, ... The Sharp LE650 series sets the big-screen LCD TV value bar high

Panasonic TC-P60ST60 - Panasonic TC-P65ST60 - Vizio E701i-A3

Best TV 2014: what TV should you buy? | News | TechRadar www.techradar.com/.../television/hdtv/best-tv-2013-what-tv-should-you-... •

Dec 14, 2013 - Constantly updated with links to the latest TV reviews and buying advice ... have moved on to 50-inch and bigger screens, leaving this category ...

Top TV Reviews | Best TV - Consumer Reports

www.consumerreports.org > Home > Electronics & computers

10 best 40 and 42-inch TVs in - 10 best 50 and 55-inch TVs in ..

Consumer Reports has honest Ratings and Reviews on tvs from the unbiased ... The size of the television's screen, measured diagonally in inches. .... at competitive prices, so it was no surprise that part of its CES story was new, bigger sets.

Big Screen LED TV Review - TV Reviews - TopTenREVIEWS

ty toptenreviews.com > TV > Flat Panel \*

Which is the best big screen tv for your money? Find out here. Take a few seconds and easily compare several top rated large screen tvs. See how each stacks ...

LCD TV 2014 | Best LCD TV | Flat Screen LCD TV's ... - TV Reviews tv.toptenreviews.com > TV > Flat Panel ▼

A large screen, flat panel LCD TV is a major purchase that merits careful consideration. Find a television that fits your budget, room and lifestyle. Are you looking ...

#### The Best TVs of 2014 - Trusted Reviews



www.trustedreviews.com > Round-ups > TVs -

by Michael Sawh - in 48 Google+ circles

Oct 15, 2013 - Screen size and super slim bezels aside, there's some other key factors you need to take into consideration when buying a new TV. Do you  $\dots$ 

How to Buy an HDTV | PCMag.com

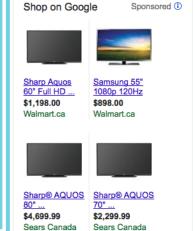
www.pcmag.com > ... > HDTVs & Home Theater > HDTVs ▼

Dec 4, 2013 - Here's what you need to know when you shop for your next HDTV. ... a large array of LEDs directly behind the panel, making the screen a little ...

#### HDTV reviews - Home Theater Review



hometheaterreview.com/flat-hdtv-reviews/ by Adrienne Maxwell - in 35 Google+ circles



Rated Best Big Screen TV

www.nextag.com/ Deals - Rated Best Big Screen TV. Get NexTag Sellers' Lowest Price!

Rating Big Screen Tv Info

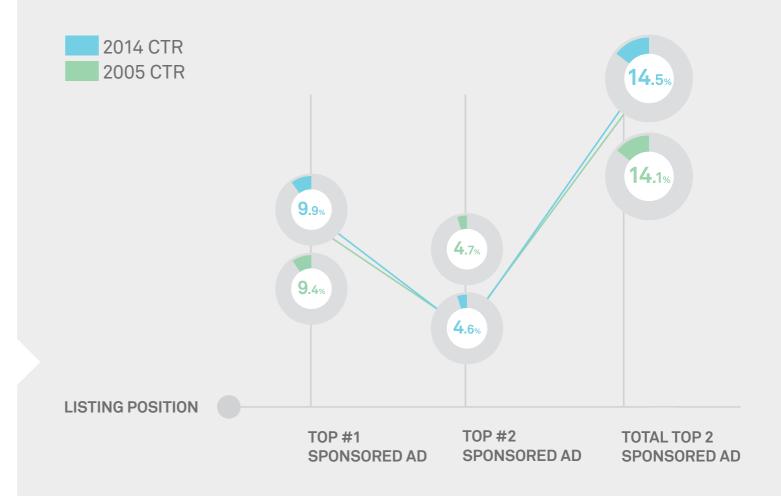
www.info.com/RatingBigScreenTv -Get Info On Rating Big Screen Tv. Access 10 Search Engines At Once.

SONY® HDTV- Official Site

store.sony.ca/TVs ▼

Shop Now for Exclusive Deals -Save up to \$1000 on Sony TVs!

Top sponsored paid ads have stood the test of time, with very little change in click-through rates in 9 years, proving the ability of paid search to capture not only attention, but also traffic.

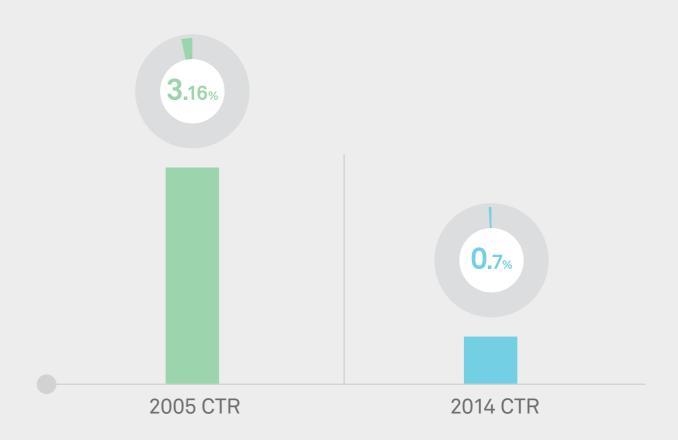


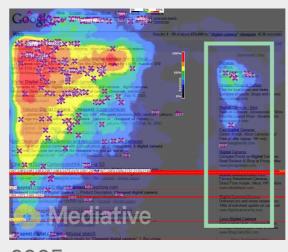
The best performing paid ads were:

- · Paid ads for branded searches
- Paid ads for a non-branded search that exactly met the searcher's intent
- Paid ads combined with an organic ad for a non-branded search

What has changed significantly since 2005 is the attention and clicks captured by the right rail sponsored listings. This is likely a result of searchers' tendencies, influenced by mobile, to search more vertically than horizontally.

#### RIGHT RAIL SPONSORED ADS CTR









2014

# Paid ads for branded searches

Paid ads are an effective way of promoting brand lift, and earning more traffic to your website.

Note: This study was conducted just prior to Google's March 2014 changes to its sponsored ad format, however, we believe the results are still representative of the new format of listing.

#### Search task:

Imagine that you want to learn to speak German. You've heard about "Rosetta Stone" software. Use Google to find the Rosetta Stone website.

#### The sponsored ad captured:



<sup>¬</sup> Rosetta Stone has bid on branded keywords to appear visible in both the sponsored listings and the organic listings.

Paid ads for branded searches

Paid ads are an effective way of promoting brand lift, and earning more traffic to your website.



# Have Sponsored and Organic Listings for brand lift

You might wonder if the top Organic
Listing would still get the same number
of clicks if the Sponsored Listing was not
there (cannibalization of clicks). However,
in a previous study featuring Honda\*,
Mediative discovered that when a brand
is in the top Sponsored Listing and in
the top Organic Listings, it achieved a
significant lift in brand association, aided
brand recall, and purchase consideration.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;The Brand Lift of Search – Online Survey and Eye Tracking Study" in 2007: mdv.to/1pl2fFJ

Paid ads for non-branded search that exactly meets searcher intent

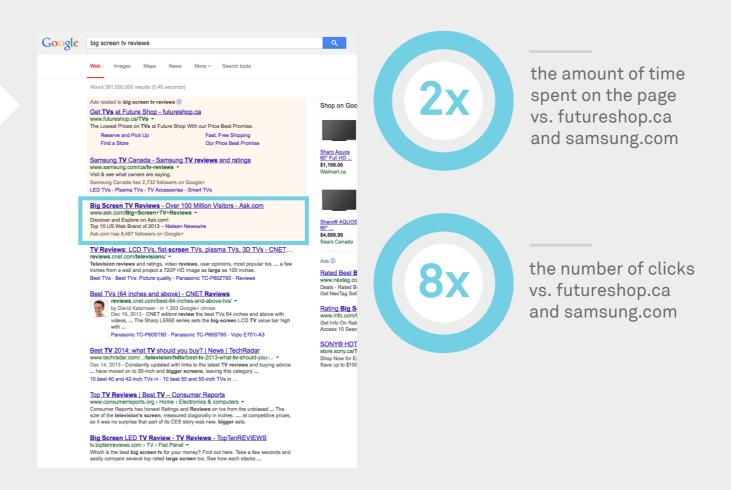
Paid ads are an effective tool for positioning your business in front of people who may not yet be aware of your brand, or who are likely to be heavily influenced by a brand.

#### Search task:

You're renovating your rec room and want to get a new big screen TV. You're not sure what kind to get and want to read some reviews.

Use Google to find reviews of big screen TVs.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> paid listing, ask.com, captured:



Paid ads for non-branded search that exactly meets searcher intent

Paid ads are an effective tool for positioning your business in front of people who may not yet be aware of your brand, or who are likely to be heavily influenced by a brand.



#### Know searcher intent

Sponsored text ads perform best when they are very closely related to the intent of the search query. In navigational searches, people will often quickly scan past listings to find a brand they trust. In informational searches, they are more interested in reviews and/or comparison websites. Consider the searchers' specific intent and adjust your paid search strategy accordingly. For example, front-load titles based on the keyword you are bidding on, indicating searcher intent.

Note: A previous study by Mediative (http://mdv.to/display-ad-walmart) shows there is also an increase in brand recognition and purchase intent, even when ads do not match the intent of the searcher. In these cases, big brands could bid highly for the paid ads as there's a strong chance that there will be no click, yet the company name is seen.

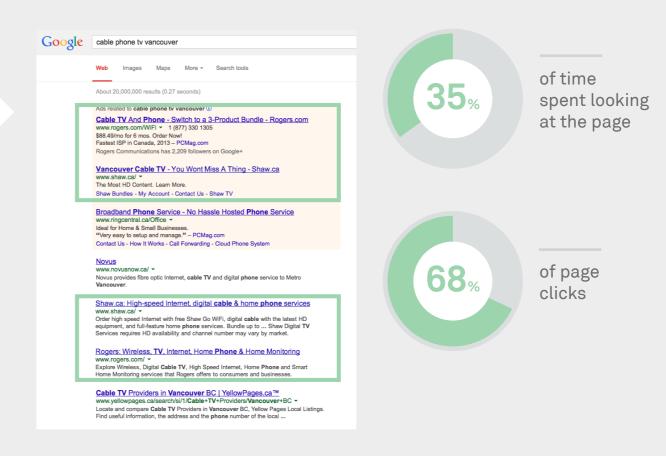
Paid ads combined with organic listings for a non-branded search

Paid ads can increase brand strength, as well as drive traffic to your website.

#### Search task:

You're moving from Toronto to Vancouver and need to set up cable, phone, and Internet. Use Google to find a company you could do that with.

Shaw and Rogers had both a Sponsored Listing and an Organic Listing. Combined, these 4 listings captured:



Paid ads combined with organic listings for a non-branded search

Paid ads can increase brand strength, as well as drive traffic to your website.



#### Know searcher intent

A significant lift in attention and clicks in non-branded searches can be achieved by advertising in the sponsored listings and having a listing in the top 4 organic results. The average duration of a look at one of the top sponsored ads was only 0.36 seconds—this is how long advertisers have to capture the attention of searchers. Therefore, the more SERP real estate you can take up with your relevant listings the better your advantage.







# METRICS

### What's changed



#### Impressions vs. clicks

3 out of the 5 new elements covered in this study—Carousel, Knowledge Graph and Local Listings—don't necessarily require the user to click on the listing/placement to get the information they are looking for. *Impression data* should therefore be measured as a success metric. Given how much information can potentially be garnered about your business without a user having to leave the SERP, the listings have a similar effect in terms of brand awareness as a display ad—even if a click is not captured.



#### Quality of each click

Conversion rates must be measured to understand the quality of potential customers coming from search. Even if you are struggling to get a large impression and click share, you might be getting highly *valuable* clicks. Understanding the value of each organic visitor is important.

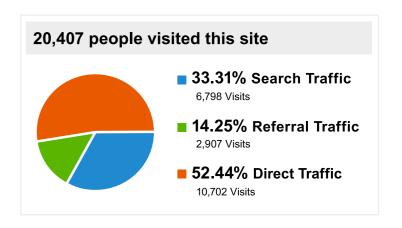
### What's still valuable



#### **Traffic**

Website visits or traffic generated from click activity has always been important and you should continue to measure this.

The best part? Google Analytics can track all this for you for free.





## IMPACTS ON BUSINESSES



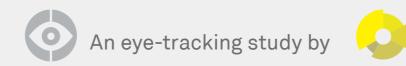
61 - NATIONAL ADVERTISERS



65 - LOCATION-BASED BUSINESSES



69 - ONLINE PUBLISHERS







Big brands vs. small

If you're a smaller brand trying to compete, consider other online and offline channels to build your brand name, or advertise niche products where competition for keywords won't be as fierce.

If you're a big name brand, it's not critical to be the #1 listing.

#### The effect of big brand names on search:

In the example below, eBay, Amazon, and Staples were listed 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Organic Listings. Together, they captured:





of all clicks on the page



of total time spent looking at the page

The value of paid search

2

Paid search campaigns are essential to generate brand reach and direct traffic when there's high competition for a top organic ranking.

Structure your campaign around a competitive advantage that resonates with searchers (e.g. price, trust, convenience) and front-load this content in your ad messaging.

#### SEO and schema

3

Ensure every product has a dedicated product page with titles, meta data, images, etc. fully optimized for search. Use schema mark-up to include rich-snippets below the listing.

Remember: the traffic you generate will be useless if there is a poor purchase conversion path set up. Make sure your landing page or website is optimized accordingly.

#### Examples:

- Car Manufacturers (mdv.to/1Aw4DmH)
- Financial Service Providers (mdv.to/1oaXEH6)

#### Converse Chuck Taylor® All Star® Core Ox - Zappos.com ...

www.zappos.com/converse-chuck-taylor-all-star-core-ox ▼

★★★★ Rating: 5 - 3,175 reviews - US\$50.00

Chuck Taylor® All Star® Core Ox by Converse at Zappos.com - FREE Shipping. ... Please select 1/2 size down from your normal size (if you wear Men's size 9, ...

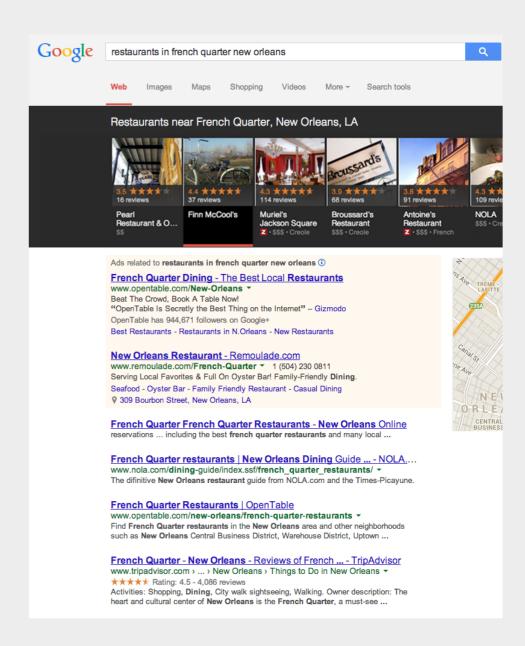
¬ Schema mark-up provides more product details
in the listing on the SERP.



### Optimize local listings

Local businesses have the opportunity to appear in several areas of the SERP—right rail map, Local Listings box, the Carousel, and Organic Listings. When the Carousel is shown, it replaces the Local Listing box. You cannot be 100% sure which feature will be shown, so you should optimize your Google+Local pages with proper category choices and descriptions.

Claim all store locations and ensure the listings are displaying the correct information.



→ When the Carousel is shown on a SERP, it replaces the Local Listing box.

Local SEO content strategy

2

An essential element to a local SEO strategy is building content on your website that the searcher will find useful, and that will match a local searcher's keywords and intent. Local searches often include regional/city modifiers.

Build unique product/service pages by location for your website, and have a presence on local directories and review sites. Establishing a consistent name, address, and phone number is vital to ranking in local search results.

SEM strategy

3

Locally relevant content in the ad copy and on landing pages will increase phone calls and visits to your location, and decrease the cost-per-acquisition.

Create specific paid ad campaigns for each market served and leverage local-targeting options and ad messaging to fuel your search marketing strategy.

### Examples:

- Local Car Dealerships (mdv.to/1mj45bz)
- Local Insurance/Financial Service Providers (mdv.to/1tm7wlY)

# ONLINE PUBLISHERS



# ONLINE PUBLISHERS

The value of SEO

Publishers rely heavily on unique visitors to pages on their site.

Many publishers are likely to be negatively impacted by the Knowledge Graph, as searchers can get their answer directly on the SERP.

Our study showed that there is still potential for clicks on the top Organic Listing, and it was looked at by the majority of participants, therefore publishers must take SEO seriously if they want to achieve a high organic ranking, and minimize the decline in organic traffic.

# ONLINE PUBLISHERS

SEM and SEO combined

2

Paid search campaigns, and a strong SEO strategy can generate traffic from broader search queries (such as "currency converter" as opposed to "convert \$100 CAD to USD").

Not all searchers will be so specific with their intent in the initial search, therefore, a high ranked Organic Listing can capture significant traffic.

Consider ways to make your listing stand out more on the SERP such as schema mark-up as this could lead to more website traffic.

## INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS\*

Average click-through rate per SERP element

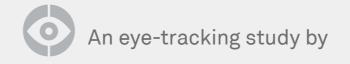
73 - KNOWLEDGE GRAPH

74 - CAROUSEL

75 - LOCAL LISTINGS

76 - ORGANIC & SPONSORED LISTINGS COMPARISON

\* Although we had a very small sample size when it comes to click through rates, we felt that it would be useful to provide a breakdown of the click data and how it's distributed across the different elements of the SERP.

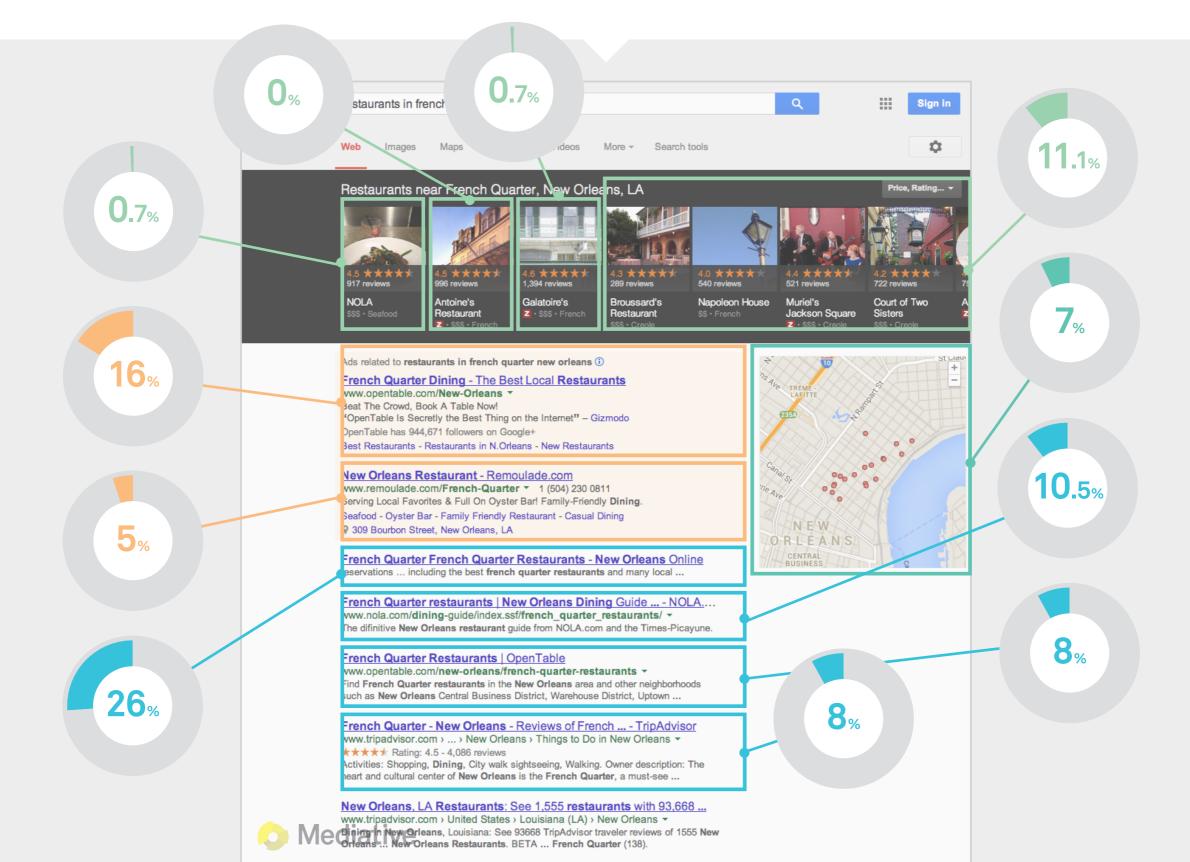




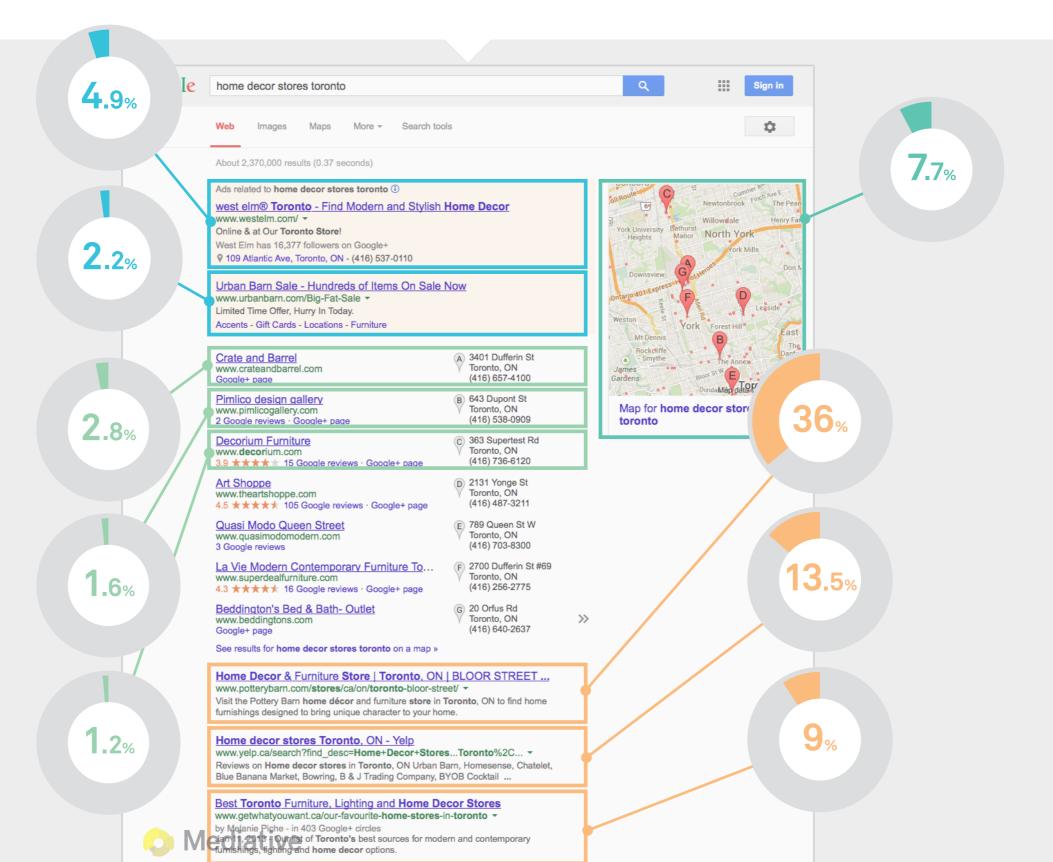
## AVERAGE CTRs: SERP WITH KNOWLEDGE GRAPH



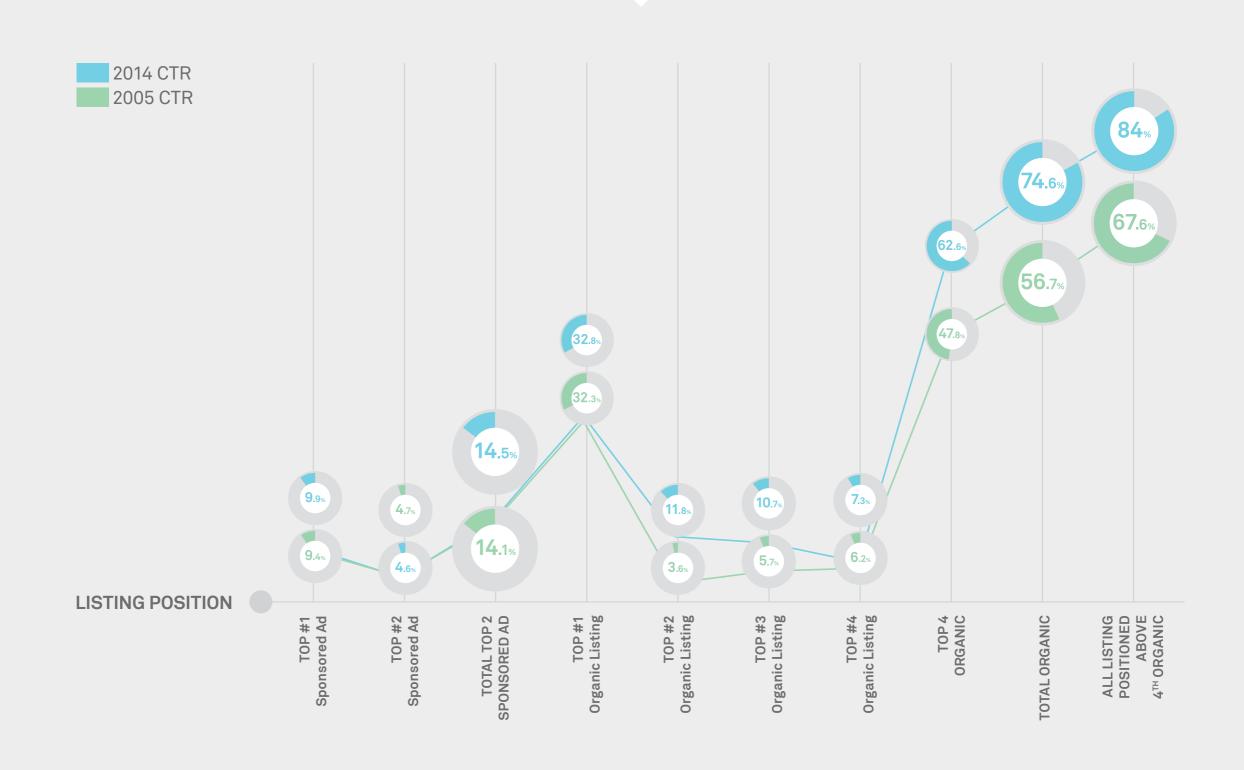
## AVERAGE CTRs: SERP WITH CAROUSEL



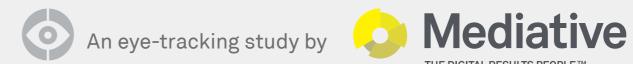
## AVERAGE CTRs: SERP WITH LOCAL LISTINGS



# ORGANIC AND SPONSORED LISTINGS COMPARISON: 2014 VS. 2005









## PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS



Rebecca Maynes

Marketing Strategist
Rebecca.Maynes@mediative.com



Ian Everdell

Manager, UX and Research Ian. Everdell@mediative.com

## OUR THOUGHT LEADERS

nowledge is at the core of what Mediative does in the digital world. It is fuelled by data, research and experience, and shaped by the curiosity of our people - to delve deeper and think ahead.

#### Meet some of our people:



### Darby Sieben

President
Specialty: Digital Marketing Strategy, Start-Ups



### **Chris Pinkerton**

Sales Director, US and Western Canada Specialty: Digital Strategy, Online Search Behaviour



### Frédérick Ranger

VP, Marketing Specialty: Creative and Integrated Marketing



### **Jody Nimetz**

Group Manager, Organic Search/SEO Specialty: Search Engine Optimization



John Fanous

VP, Central Region Sales and Shopper Marketing Specialty: Retail Monetization



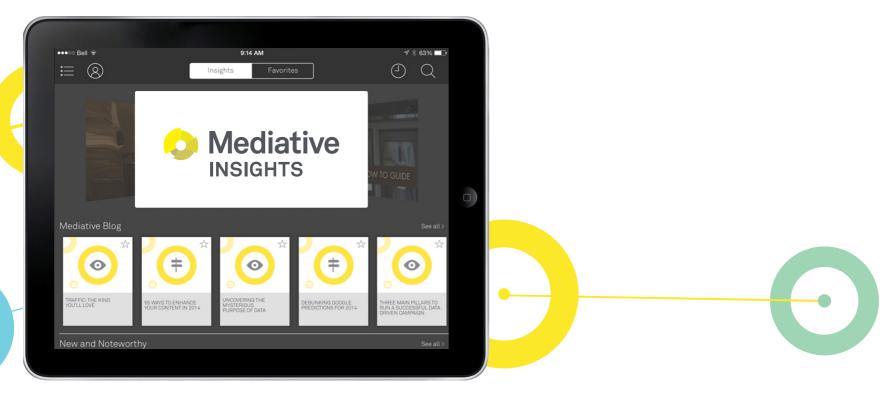
#### Melanie Roth

Director, National Sales
Specialty: Digital Strategy, Local SEO, Performance Display

## DIGITAL MARKETING BRILLIANCE IS JUST A TAP AWAY!

hat if there was a way to get instant access to digital marketing resources like industry research, best practices, and implement-right-now tactics to help you to stay on top of the changing marketing landscape?

This is it.



7

#### THE MEDIATIVE INSIGHTS APP.

#### **≰** Available on the App Store ™

- One tap access to whitepapers, case studies, and blogs, written by subject matter experts.
- It's free, it's awesome, and it'll make you a better marketer. What are you waiting for?

## ABOUT MEDIATIVE

ediative is a digital marketing company that provides performance services and access to media platforms designed to help businesses enhance their digital presence and influence consumers' path to purchase.

Location and research-based data fuels our knowledge, which we leverage across our range of services, online properties, and location-based marketing platforms.

With precise and unmatched insights into how shoppers buy and how users behave, we take a holistic, consultative approach to drive the results you need now and in the future.

Learn more about Mediative's
User Experience services at
mediative.com/services/user-experience

Contact Mediative at mediative.com/contact