

Why Facebook Search Suggests ‘Photos of Female Friends in Bikinis’ | WIRED

By Louise Matsakis

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Just before Valentine’s Day last week, Belgian security researcher Inti De Ceukelaire noticed [something strange](#) on [Facebook](#). He found the social network’s search function treated pictures of men and women in dramatically different ways. Searching for “photos of my female friends” returned a hodgepodge of images, whereas a similar search for “photos of my male friends” yielded no results. Worse, Facebook [assumed](#) “male” was simply a typo for the word “female.”

Tech blogs picked up on De Ceukelaire’s tweets, and after replicating the results, published stories with headlines like “[Facebook lets you search for pictures of your female friends, but not your male ones](#).” Even more damning were the autocomplete predictions Facebook offered: When [many users](#) typed “photos of my female friends,” the platform suggested phrases like “in bikinis” or “at the beach.”

[...]

Source: [Why Facebook Search Suggests ‘Photos of Female Friends in Bikinis’ | WIRED](#)