

Statement from Peg Aloï:

In the early days of Witchvox, I recall when similar filters being used in homes and public places like libraries prevented access to the Witchvox site, and the site published a number of articles on it. It seems odd that so many years later this is still an issue, but clearly it's a reflection of the increase in anti-pagan sentiment across parts of America where Christian evangelism is influencing politics and social issues. As an academic, I am troubled by the inclusion of the word "occult" in such filters, since this word is not even necessarily associated with paganism, Wicca or earth-based spirituality. [As I have written elsewhere](#), the word "occult" does seem to be interchangeable with the word "cult" in some Christian's lexicons. My main area of research and writing is the history of the pagan movement, and I am currently writing a [book with the word "occult" in the title](#), so this issue affects me directly as well as many other scholars. I must also say, the word "occult" is frequently used in medical articles and documents, and preventing its use in Internet searches would negatively affect any number of medical students, doctors and researchers.