

'No More ASCII' Firefox Add-on

23 November 2015 · automation, tools, unicode

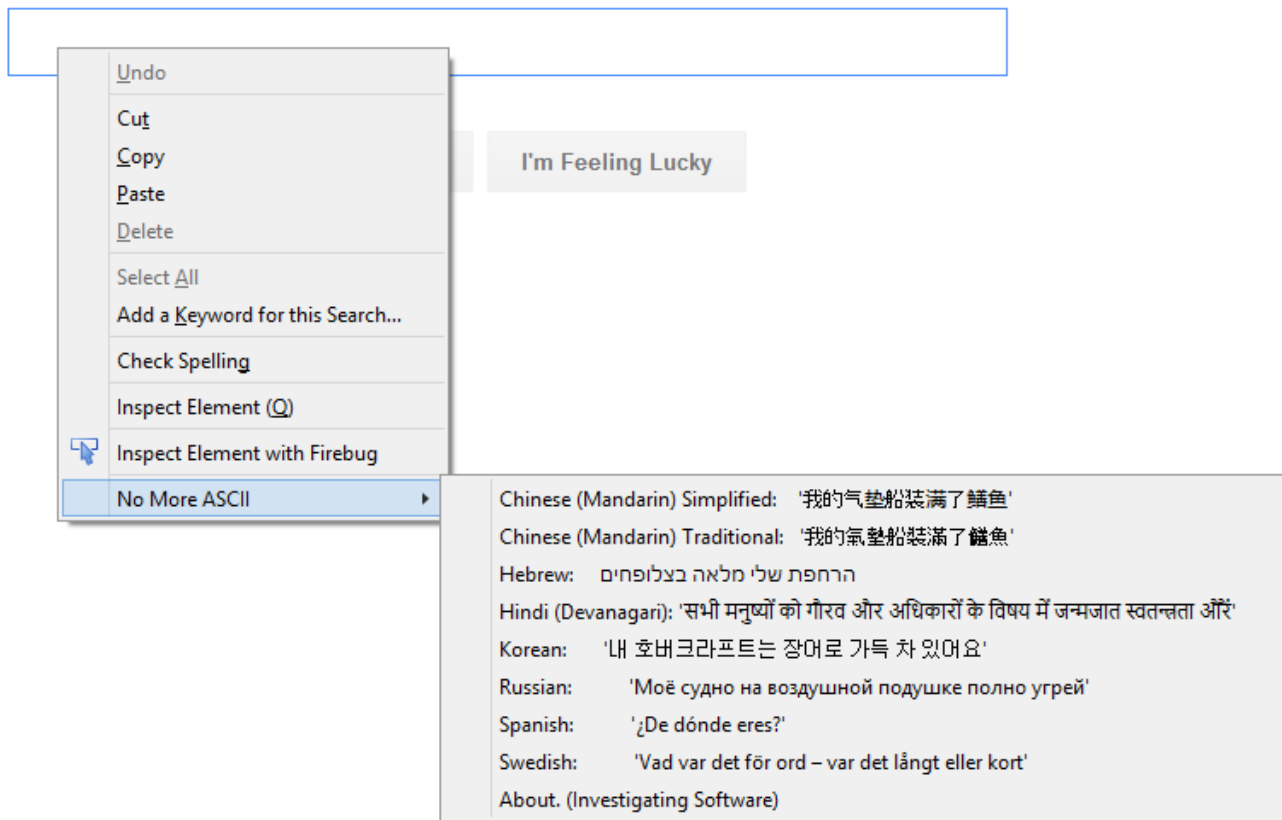
Many of my clients have a multi-national (and multi-lingual) user base, and their software receives input from a range of devices, not just those configured to UK or US locales. The sites may also need to process and publish content that is 'non-ASCII'.

So when I'm quickly testing a website or web application, I need to investigate how they handle inputs from a multitude of locales, quickly.

That's why I created the No More ASCII, a Firefox Add-on (<https://addons.mozilla.org/addon/no-more-ascii-text-inserter/>), it has a set of stock text strings from a range of languages and scripts. These have been chosen for their widespread use around the world, as well as their ability to highlight deficiencies in many web-sites. For example these features of the scripts can cause problems for ASCII/poor-Unicode implementations:

- Right To Left text - Hebrew
- Diacritics - Swedish
- Non-Roman - Mandarin, Hindi etc.

The text strings may not make 'sense' as some are partial sentences or Monty Python quotes. They are aimed to have a selection of characters that may not be well encoded by your software.



Here is an example of a web site ([The Telegraph](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/search/?queryText=%E2%80%8F%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%97%D7%A4%D7%AA+%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%99+%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%94+%D7%91%D7%A6%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%97%D7%99%D7%9D%E2%80%8E&sort=relevant) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/search/?queryText=%E2%80%8F%D7%94%D7%A8%D7%97%D7%A4%D7%AA+%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%99+%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90%D7%94+%D7%91%D7%A6%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%A4%D7%97%D7%99%D7%9D%E2%80%8E&sort=relevant>)) that doesn't handle a Hebrew query of their articles very well:

T | Privacy and cookies | Jobs | Dating | Offers | Shop | Puzzles | Investor

The Telegraph

Home Video News World Sport Finance Comment Culture Travel Life Women Fashion Luxu



HOME » SEARCH

Search Results

Search input field containing a sequence of question marks and some Hebrew characters. A blue 'Search' button is to the right.

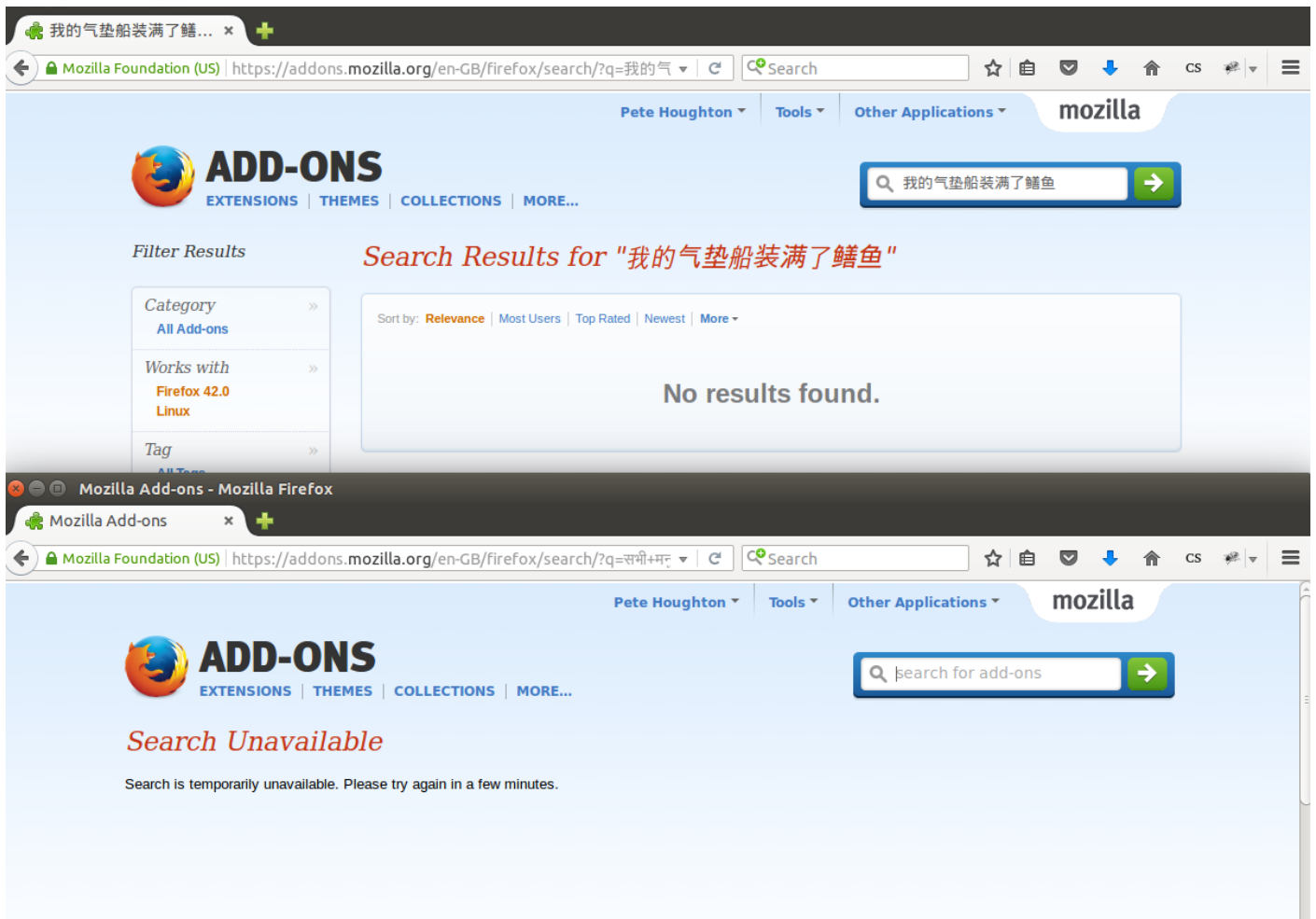
Date Range: from... [calendar icon] to... [calendar icon] Clear

Sort results: by date by relevance

results - enhanced by OpenText

No results found. Please adjust your search using the box above.

Or take a look at the Firefox website. Queries for Mandarin Chinese characters return 'No results found.' But a search for Hindi script, returns 'Search is temporarily unavailable'. That looks like an issue i might want to investigate...



The free add-on is available to [download](https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/addon/no-more-ascii-text-inserter/) (https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/addon/no-more-ascii-text-inserter/) now, and I hope to expand the list of languages/scripts available. Requests are welcome. Credit goes to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) and [Omniglot](http://www.omniglot.com/) (http://www.omniglot.com/) for the text used.