

Internet Searching Workshop

- 1) What is the Internet?
 - a) Network of computers that are able to communicate with each other via telephone lines, cable, satellite, etc. Look at this site <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet-infrastructure.htm>.
 - b) Original network of computers developed by Defense Dept in the 60s as a means of emergency communication during potential disaster such as war. Universities were added to share the cost.
 - c) Then the National Science Foundation created a network of 5 supercomputer centers and added more universities
 - d) Protocols, or language, were developed to control the sending and receiving of packets of data so that many computers can use the same lines at the same time.
 - e) Eventually the development of smaller, more powerful computers enabled businesses and consumers to make use of the Internet, sparked by Vice President Al Gore's "information superhighway" speech in 1991.
 - f) See http://www.computerhistory.org/exhibits/internet_history/ or <http://www.stimulus.com/education/internet101.html> for more information about the history of the Internet.

- 2) What are search engines & what do they do?
 - a) Computer databases that include software programs (called "spiders") that "crawl" the web by following links in pages already stored. When new web sites are found, they are sent to an indexing program which excises & stores specific information in the database so that the database can be searched by keyword, etc.
 - b) New web sites can also be added to the database by request from the owner of the site if they meet Google's criteria.
 - c) So when you use a search engine, you are actually searching its database of stored information about web sites and then using a link to get to an actual web site.
 - d) Search engines only give you access to the "Visible Web." Many pages are excluded from search engine databases by policy decisions or because they are part of proprietary databases, such as ATLA Religion & EBSCOhost. For more information, see <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/InvisibleWeb.html#What>.

- 3) What are internet directories?
 - a) In contrast to search engines, which add pages by programmed spiders, internet directories contain web pages that have all been looked at and selected by actual human beings. Thus they include fewer pages, but often these pages are more focused in their relevance and judged for quality.

- b) Yahoo has a directory (look at <http://search.yahoo.com/dir?fr=yfp-t-501>). All the Web is a search engine (<http://www.alltheweb.com>). Google is a search engine, but also has a directory option (look at <http://www.google.com/dirhp>). You should experiment with several directories and search engines to learn which work best for you and your various information needs.
- 4) Meta-search engines search the databases of several search engines and databases. You can select which of these you want them to search.

Clusty: <http://clusty.com/>

Dogpile: <http://www.dogpile.com/>

Kartoo: <http://www.kartoo.com/>

Webcrawler: <http://www.webcrawler.com/>

- 5) You can find links to these search engines, directories & metasearch engines from the Taylor Library “Other Web Resources” page:
<http://www.iliff.edu/research/resources/other-resources.php>. Click on “Search the Web.”
- 6) These web sites compare search engines and directories and explain search commands observed by each:

Best search engines Tool Chart - <http://www.infopeople.org/search/chart.html>

Search engine descriptions & evaluations -

<http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2156221>

Metasearch engines - <http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2156241>

Search engine features chart - <http://www.searchengineshowdown.com/features/>

- 7) Let’s try a search:
- Go to Google (<http://www.google.com>).
 - Click on “Advanced Search” to the right of the text box. This screen gives you multiple ways to structure your search.
 - Let’s say you want information about some of the women German mystics, including “Hildegard von Bingen.” Type “women german mystics” into the box next to “with **all** of the words.” Type “Hildegard von Bingen” into the box next to “with the exact phrase.”
 - In the “Domain” box, type “.edu” – this will limit results to sites at educational institutions.
 - Now click on “Google Search” in the top right hand corner.
 - Try repeating the search with the Domain of “org” – this will look for sites such as nonprofit organizations and associations.
 - If you want images of Hildegard and her visions, try a Google image search.

- 8) Remember that search engines only search the “Visible” or “Surface” Web. To search some of the Invisible Web, go to the library home page and click on “First Search” (for the ATLA Religion database & others) or “EBSCO” for the EBSCOhost collection of databases. These are all subscription databases and contain scholarly articles.
- 9) Anyone can claim to be anything they want and put anything on the web. Therefore, it is critical to learn how to evaluate the web sites you find. Here’s a really good guide to evaluating web pages:
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

Here’s a checklist you can print out and use:

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/EvalForm_General_Barker.pdf

- 10) For more information on web searching:

Web searching tips: <http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=facts>

DU Internet Searching guide:

http://www.penlib.du.edu/FindIt/ResearchGuides/rg_main.cfm?rg_id=78

“Help” menus on search engine screen

<http://www.refdesk.com/newsrch.html> - “Search Engine Resources”

- 11) For recommended sites, go to <http://www.iliff.edu/research/resources/other-resources.php> and click on “Religion on the Web.” These sites have been personally examined and selected by Iliff staff. Please let us know of any sites you find that you think might be worthy additions!

Also check out these sources of recommended sites:

Librarians’ Internet Index - <http://lii.org/>

Virtual Reference Desk - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/virtualref.html>

- 12) What is Google Scholar? <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/about.html>
Try doing the same search in Google Scholar and in our subscription databases such as ATLA Religion and EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier. How do the results compare?
- 13) What is Google Books? <http://books.google.com/intl/en/googlebooks/about.html>
Go to the Advanced Search screen and type “works” in the “with all of these words” box and “martin luther” in the “this exact phrase” box. You will find complete text of some editions and translations of his works that are in the public domain (i.e., no longer under copyright protection).

