

# Advanced Internet Search Techniques

## Front Range PC Users Group

### A. Search resources available on the World Wide Web.

#### I. Search Engines and Meta Search Engines.

- a. Spider or robot that can harvest the full text from web sites on the Internet.
- b. Computer database that can store the information efficiently.
- c. User interface that allows access to the database.
- d. Meta Search Engine parse requests and uses other Search Engines to resolve search.
- e. Examples include Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, and Ask.com,
- f. Specialized Search Engines WolframAlpha.com
- g. Meta Search Engines include Ixquick, Metacrawler and DogPile.

#### II. Subject Directories.

- a. Human selected topics.
- b. Sometimes evaluated for content value.
- c. Usually arranged in hierarchical categories
- d. Examples, Yahoo, Infomine, and About.com.

#### III. Specialized Databases, the Invisible Web.

- a. Locate by Subject Directory or Keyword search.
- b. Web page that provides access to a database of specialized information.
- c. Subscription required in some cases.
- d. Example Google maps, e.g. mash-ups of information and location

### B. How to begin. <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html>

#### I. Five step search strategy.

#### II. Strategies NOT recommended.

#### III. Match your search with the features of the search engine.

### C. Evaluating web resources.

#### I. URL clues to look for, numbers or domain name.

#### II. Scan the page for clues, last update, contacts and any information about the author.

#### III. Look for indicators of quality, links to reputable web sites.

#### IV. What do others have to say about the site, links, and Usenet news groups.

#### V. Does it all add up, if still in doubt, ask someone else for their view.

### D. Glossary, <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Glossary.html>.

## E. Other resources.

- I. <http://www.google.com/>, multiple categories of searches available.
- II. <http://www.yahoo.com/>, offers search and subject directories.
- III. <http://www.ask.com/> searches for better results.
- IV. <http://www.bing.com/>, latest search offer from Microsoft.
- V. <http://www.searchengineshowdown.com/>, users guide to web searching.
- VI. <http://gigablast.com/> custom searches available for individual web pages.
- VII. <http://go.com/>, Go is more of a portal, ABC News
- VIII. <http://kanoodle.com/>, marketing targeted sponsored links.
- IX. <http://www.looksmart.com/>, vertical search, with directories
- X. <http://www.content.overture.com/>, search advertising web pages, owned by Yahoo.
- XI. <http://websearch.about.com/od/enginesanddirectories/tp/search-engine-list.htm>, comprehensive search engine lists.
- XII. <http://wisnut.com/>, search exactly.
- XIII. <http://hotbot.com/>, another meta search tool.
- XIV. <http://wolframalpha.com/>, an interesting new search tool with many added features.
- XV. <http://scout.wisc.edu/>, the Scout Report is one of the original Internet reporting sites.

## F. Exercises

- I. Find the definition of the word that won the 2009 U.S. Spelling competition.
- II. Find IRS forms and Instructions for Non-Cash Charitable Contributions
- III. Find the Sunrise and Sunset for the day you were born, location and time of day.
- IV. What is the current exchange rate for US Dollars to Euros?
- V. How to make a Duct Tape Wallet.
- VI. Events that happened on this date in history.
- VII. Where was the highest bridge in the Trans Continental railroad when it was completed?
- VIII. What is high, low and mean dosage range of Vitamin C for an average adult?
- IX. What year was the first Mardi Gras was celebrated.
- X. Find the price range of gasoline between East, Central and West parts of United States.
- XI. Get driving directions between your home and Washington D.C.
- XII. Find the cost of a flight from Denver International to London England.