Wading Through the Web

Conducting Research on the Internet

Other Helpful Resources:
- Online Encyclopedias are a great resource for information!
  - Try these...
  - Encyclopedia Britannica: [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)
  - Online Reference: [www.reference.com](http://www.reference.com)

We’ll Cover:
- Different Types of Searches
- How to Search the Internet
- How to Tell if the Information is Reliable

Now:
Go to [RADCAB.com](http://RADCAB.com) to learn more
Wading Through the Web

Conducting Research on the Internet
We'll Cover:

1. Different Types of Searches
2. How to Search the Internet
3. How to Tell if the Information is Reliable
Things to Think About:

- Where do you go to find information for a research report?
- How does the Internet differ from other sources of information?
- What is your favorite place to find information and why?
When might using the Internet be better than using traditional text?

- **Topics that are contemporary/modern**
- **More up-to-date on current events**
- **Controversial topics**
- **To find many different opinions/perspectives**
Different Types of Searches
# Databases vs. Search Engines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Databases</th>
<th>Search Engines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Purchased by the library</td>
<td>• Free to anyone with computer access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Content is reviewed and recommended</td>
<td>• No review standards with regard to content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information is organized</td>
<td>• Information is not organized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information is stable</td>
<td>• Information is not stable; locations and content continually change</td>
</tr>
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</table>
What is a Search Engine?

A SEARCH ENGINE is a program that allows you to search the Internet and identify terms that match the keywords the user inputs.
Most Popular Search Engines:
Regular Search Engines:

A REGULAR search engine, like Google or Bing, searches the Internet based on a given search term

FOR EXAMPLE...
Type "Blaine" into Google - you get 41.3M "hits"
Type the same word in Bing - 4.54M "hits" and some are different than Google's
Why use Search Engines?

Search engines are useful for finding information on organizations, groups, and personal pages related to a topic.
They can also be used for finding articles, but it can be difficult to narrow down results, find relevant material, and assess the legitimacy of information found on the Internet.
It's especially important to be wary when using Internet sources, as there are no quality control mechanisms that verify the validity of information on individual pages.
What is a Database?

DATABASES are usually collections of journal and magazine articles, dissertations (formal papers), reviews, and abstracts (short statement that describes a larger piece).
Most Popular Databases:

- EBSCOHOST
- ERIC Institute of Education Sciences
- Google Scholar
- refseek™
Databases:

DATABASES consists of individual RECORDS...

Each RECORD contains all the information in the database for an individual item, which provides a brief description of that item.

Each RECORD is composed of FIELDS. A FIELD defines the individual parts/elements of each record.
Searching for "year-round schooling" on Google Scholar gives you articles and PDFs on the topic...
Searching on ERIC gives many of the same results with the option to download full text versions...
Why use Databases?

Using a database allows users to search for information in an organized collection. The user benefits from this organization because it provides more relevant results, through the use of subject headings and descriptors. Users can also search for keywords in specific fields, such as author and title, and limit their results using various criteria.
Databases also provide information in known sources, for example, printed magazines and journals. The content of databases has undergone a review process and the information is more reliable than information found in a regular Internet search. Often databases provide access to full-text magazine and journal articles.
Other Helpful Resources:

Online Encyclopedias are a great resource for information!

Try these...

Encyclopedia Britannica @ www.britannica.com

Online Reference @ www.reference.com
How to Search the Internet
Make the Most of Your Search!

Most search engines and databases have something called Advanced Search - this allows you to be more specific about what type of information you are looking for...
Smarter Searching on the Web

Most databases and search engines allow you to use a set of words or symbols to narrow your search...called:

**BOOLEAN OPERATORS**
**AND** - use this word when you want to find 2 words together

**OR** - use this word when you can accept different words

**-(minus sign)** - use this symbol when you want to exclude a word

**"quotations"** - use when you are searching for an exact phrase

**BOOLEAN OPERATORS**
How to Tell if the Information is Reliable
REMEMBER! Anyone can post information on the Internet...

Make sure the information you are using comes from a person or organization that can be trusted!
Use the acronym RADCAB to help you evaluate the information you find:

**R**elevancy
- Is the information relevant to the question at hand? Am I on the right track?

**A**ppropriateness
- Is the information suitable to my age and core values?

**D**etail
- How much information do I need? Is the depth of coverage adequate?

**C**urrency
- When was the information published or last updated?

**A**uthority
- Who is the author of the information? What are his or her qualifications?

**B**ias
- Why was this information written? Was it written to inform me, persuade me, entertain me, or sell me something?
NOW:

Go to RADCAB.com to learn more
Think you've found good information?

Still not sure if your sources are credible?

Will your instructor accept or reject your sources?

Find out BEFORE you work to incorporate the info into your paragraphs!

Find out BEFORE you submit that draft!
An interactive rating system for evaluating source credibility

Just "Google" SEER rubric and click on a PDF to start evaluating your own Internet sources!