

I Know It's Out There, But How Do I Find It? Search Engine Showdown

Information Literacy

Systematically integrate Internet and other ICT (information and communications technologies) in thoughtful ways into the literacy curriculum, especially in developing the critical literacies essential to effective information use.

~ IRA Position Statement — Integrating Technology and Literacy in the Curriculum

The ability to know where there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for an issue or problem at hand.

~ as defined by the National Forum on Information Literacy

The Information Literate student accesses information efficiently and effectively.

~ American Library Association — Information Literacy Standard One

“Finding information today is easy; but finding the best and most relevant and reliable source of information is difficult. A student’s academic success in problem solving, in becoming an informed citizen, even in pursuing his own personal interests depends greatly upon his ability to access, use and evaluate information from a wide range of resources.”

~ Information Literacy: Florida’s Library Media/Curriculum Connections – 2003

Informational Directories

- Enchanted Learning <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/siteindex.shtml>
- Kids Konnect <http://www.kidskonnect.com/>
- InfoPlease Fact Monster <http://www.factmonster.com/>
- Great Sites from ALA <http://www.ala.org/greatwebsites>
- High School Hub <http://www.highschoolhub.org/hub/hub.cfm>
- Teen Space at the Internet Public Library <http://ipl.si.umich.edu/div/teen/>
- The Homework Spot <http://www.homeworkspot.com/>
- Student Navigator at the New York Times
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/navigator/students.html>
- BJ Pinchbeck’s Homework Helper <http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bjpinchbeck/>

Student Friendly Search Engines

- AOL@School <http://www.aolatschool.com/>
- Ask Jeeves for Kids <http://www.ajkids.com/>
- Awesome Library <http://www.awesomelibrary.org>
- CyberSleuth Kids <http://cybersleuth-kids.com/>
- DMOZ Kids http://dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens
- Ithaki for Kids <http://kids.ithaki.net>
- Ivy's Search Engine Resources for Kids <http://www.ivyjoy.com/rayne/kidssearch.html>
- KidsClick <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/>
- TekMom <http://www.tekmom.com/search/>
- Yahoooligans! <http://www.yahooligans.com>

Directories

- All The Web <http://www.alltheweb.com>
- DMOZ <http://dmoz.org/>
- Librarians' Index to the Internet <http://lii.org/>
- WWW Virtual Library <http://vlib.org/>
- Yahoo <http://www.yahoo.com/>

Search Engines

- A9 <http://a9.com>
- Altavista <http://www.altavista.com>
- Ask Jeeves <http://www.ask.com/>
- Google <http://www.google.com>
- MSN Search <http://search.msn.com>

Metasearch Engines

- Dogpile <http://www.dogpile.com/>
- Metacrawler <http://www.metacrawler.com/>
- Mama <http://www.mamma.com/>
- Queryster <http://www.queryster.com>
- Zapmeta <http://www.zapmeta.com/>

Deep Web Search Engines

- Complete Planet <http://www.completeplanet.com/>
- FindArticles <http://www.findarticles.com/>
- Infomine <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>
- Invisible Web <http://www.invisible-web.net/>
- Profusion <http://www.profusion.com/>

Visual, Clustering Search Sites

- Clusty <http://clusty.com/>
- Kartoo <http://www.kartoo.com/>
- Mooter <http://www.mooter.com/>
- Teoma <http://www.teoma.com/>

Boolean, Proximity, Truncation, Wildcard, & Field Operators

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AND or + | <input type="checkbox"/> W (within) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOT or - | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> " " (quotes) | <input type="checkbox"/> NEAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OR | <input type="checkbox"/> ADJ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> () (parenthesis) | <input type="checkbox"/> TITLE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ~ (tilde) | <input type="checkbox"/> URL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> * ? \$ # (truncation/wildcards) | <input type="checkbox"/> LINK |

Search Strategies

- What do you want to find?
 - write out in one or two sentences
 - know what you are looking for and what you are not looking for
- Identify keywords
 - avoid being too general or too specific
 - consider synonyms and variant forms
 - Check spelling
- Whenever possible, use nouns and objects as keywords
- Put most important terms first in your keyword list
- Use at least three keywords in your query
- Combine keywords, whenever possible, into phrases
- Avoid common words, unless they're part of a phrase
- Think about words you'd expect to find in the body of the page, use them as keywords
- Start big, then narrow
 - begin with a directory, but don't browse
 - scan the hits
- Learn the search site's features
 - use the Advanced/Power Search options
 - Boolean Operators are your friends
- Searching is a skill – it takes time and practice to develop
 - Be patient
 - Be persistent
 - Be aware
 - Be organized
 - Be creative
 - Be decisive
- Experiment with a variety of search sites
 - then narrow your choices to a favorite few
 - learn the “secrets” of these sites