

HOW TO SEARCH THE INTERNET



WHAT IS ON THE INTERNET

The Internet is often called the Information Superhighway because it contains information that people all over the world can access. The amount of information that is stored on the Internet can be described as the library to end all libraries; anything that you could ever want to know is out there somewhere the trouble is finding it.

A journalist once wrote in his newspaper that he spent several hours in the Internet searching for information that he later found within five minutes in his local library. Most of the good information on the Internet is buried under the world's biggest heap of electronic rubbish!

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE INFORMATION YOU READ ON THE INTERNET MAY NOT BE ACCURATE OR EVEN TRUE.

Only trust information if it is from a source you know or if your teacher or librarian has said it is a good source of information.

SEARCHING THE INTERNET

There are lots of different search engines on the Internet that will quickly look through all the information available. The search engine will then give you a set of results that might contain the information you are looking for. In order to get this information you must enter a **KEYWORD** into the search box. A **KEYWORD** is a word that best describes the subject you are looking for. For example, if you were looking for information on the different types of food that you would eat if you were in Brazil the **KEYWORDS** you type are **BRAZIL** and **FOOD**. In order to get the exact information you would type your keywords in inverted commas.

SEARCH ENGINES

AllTheWeb - <http://www.alltheweb.com>

Altavista - <http://uk.altavista.com>

Ask Jeeves - <http://www.ask.co.uk>

Excite - <http://www.excite.co.uk>

Google - <http://www.google.co.uk>

Hotbot - <http://www.hotbot.lycos.co.uk>

Lycos - <http://www.lycos.co.uk/>

Yahoo - <http://www.yahoo.co.uk>

HOW DO I KNOW IF A WEBSITE IS RELIABLE?



The best way to check whether or not a website is telling the truth is to run through the CARS checklist. CARS stands for the following:

- ***CREDIBILITY** - Is it a trustworthy source, with a proper author, produced by a known or respected organisation.
- ***ACCURACY** - Is the website up to date, factual, is it correct today and not yesterday, does the audience and purpose fit your needs, is it telling the truth i.e. does it say the sun is green!
- ***REASONABLENESS** - Is the website fair, balanced and objective. Is there any bad or strong language used and does it make unbelievable claims.
- ***SUPPORT** - Does the website have a list of sources, contact information so you can contact the author, convincing evidence for the claims it makes.

HOT TIPS FOR INTERNET SEARCHING

- *Select the most unique **KEYWORDS** - choose words that fully describe your topic area and the information that you need.
- *Combine and link **KEYWORDS** together in a logical way. Enter the most important terms first because some search engines use the order in which you have typed them to search the Internet.

- *Capitals may count - using capital letters, in a person's name for instance, will help narrow your search in many engines.
- *Consider Synonyms - there may be dozens of words, which can be used to describe your topic. Make sure you think of alternative words, spelling variations, abbreviations and synonyms. Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to help you.
- *Use quotation marks to bind phrases together - inverted commas can be used to link two words together as a phrase.
- *Work out what works for you, and learn how to refine/narrow your search. Try out different search engines using the same search statement. Search engines all have their own strengths.
- *Examine your results - be critical of web content and know how to be able to detect any lies!