



COSC and BCIS/Computers and the Internet

**The Library vs.
The World Wide Web**

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Where Do I Search?

Most of us feel comfortable using search engines and usually go back to the same one for every search

The key to searching for information in coursework is to use a variety of sources

[You might even want to try starting your search at the MCC Library's web site!](#)

Library vs. World Wide Web

Our Library has databases and catalogs that are accessed on the Internet

HOWEVER

Those resources are not "Internet" resources or sites

Isn't the Internet just a Big, Networked Library?

- Online and hard copy library resources are collected, described and organized, while most sources on the Internet are not.
- It is often difficult to find scholarly research or scientific publications on the Internet.
- With most search engines, you are only skimming the surface of the information that exists on the WWW.
- On the Web you might find a resource that seems great but must be purchased. At MCC, you get access to the databases for free!

Benefits of the World Wide Web

- Newest information
- Some scholarly pubs are [open access](#) - free on the web (ex: Directory of Open Access Journals).
- Great for quick facts, editorials, opinions, or popular culture topics
- Some scholarly pubs become free on the Internet after a period of time when the information is not as “new”, usually when they are 6 months to a year old (embargo).
- Search engines are getting better and the number of engines available is increasing (see [Search Engine Watch](#)).
- There are great subject directories on the web to help you find organized and described information (LII <http://www.lii.org>).

If I need ... should I use a Library or Internet Source?

I Need....	How Current?	What Type of Info?	Audience	Where?
General Reporting, very little analysis, observations and facts	Very Recent (1 day – weeks)	News Reports and Newspaper Articles Websites	General Public	Library Databases Internet Sites
General Reporting, some analysis, opinions, statistics	Very – Fairly Recent (1 week – 1 year)	Popular Magazine Articles Websites	General Public to Layperson	Library Databases Internet Sites
Research results, detailed analysis, bibliographies	Recent – older (6 months – 3 years)	Scholarly Journal Articles (Some Websites, not all topics)	Scholars and Students	Library Databases
In-depth, compilations, bibliography, overview and analysis	Recent – older (2 - 10 years)	Books Scholarly Journal Articles	General to Specialists	Library Databases and Library Catalog (for books)