

Searching the Internet: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

WHERE to search.....

Search Engines	Advanced Search
http://www.google.com	http://www.google.com/advanced_search
http://www.ask.com	http://www.ask.com/webadvanced
http://www.alltheweb.com	Click on "advanced search" next to the text box
http://www.altavista.com	http://www.altavista.com/web/adv
http://www.completeplanet.com/	Click on "Advanced Search" located next to the search box
http://www.hotbot.com/	http://www.hotbot.com/adv.php
http://usasearch.gov/	Click on "Advanced Search" located next to the search box
http://clusty.com	Click on "advanced" next to the search box

Subject Directories	Pages selected by experts and links are often described (annotated). You can browse subjects or search with keywords. Searches ought to be broader than they would with a regular engine search.
Librarians Internet Index Academic Info Google Directory Yahoo! MCC Library's Internet Sites by Subject Internet Public Library Intute	http://www.iii.org www.academicinfo.us http://directory.google.com http://dir.yahoo.com http://mccintsub.wikispaces.com http://www.ipl.org http://www.intute.ac.uk/

Article Searches on the Web	Searches free and/or paid article sources - choose to search just the free articles or check our library's Online Periodicals for those that were not free in the search
FindArticles	http://findarticles.com/ (Choose "free articles only" at the search box)
MagPortal	http://www.magportal.com/ (all freely accessible)
Google Scholar	http://scholar.google.com (click on "Advanced Scholar Search" next to the text box)

Who, What, When, Where and Why: Evaluating Your Web Sources

WHO wrote it?

Is there an author listed as the creator of the article, page or site? Can you contact them? Do they list their credentials?

Find out more by and about the author by doing a search on the Internet with the author name. You could also search in the library's databases to look for information by and about the author.

WHO owns it?

Who owns the site and are they reputable? If the site owner is not visible, truncate parts of the URL in the address to go back to main parts of the site (example:
<http://www.newhorizons.org/trans/morefield.htm> = <http://www.newhorizons.org/>)

You can find out more about a site owner at [Whois.net](http://www.whois.net) (example: newhorizons.org is owned by New Horizons for Learning in Seattle, WA.)

WHO links to it?

Is this site listed in an expert subject directory? Look in the subject directories listed on the front page of this handout. Do other reputable sites link to this site?

To find out, search in Google with <link:URL of main site> (example: [link:www.mclennan.edu](http://www.mclennan.edu))

WHAT is on the page to add to or take away from the value of the information?

Be wary of 1) sponsored ads, 2) poor design of the site, 3) required fees or registration (except for scholarly journals and journal sites), 4) no identification of sources used or cited, 5) the site or page lacking identification of the author, site owner, or ways to contact the author or owner.

WHEN was the information created or updated?

Is there a publication date given? Often a page may have been updated even if the information included on the page was not. Look for dates associated with the publication of the information or article.

WHERE is this site?

Some internet domains provide higher quality information than others. Look for sites that include a top-level domain of **.edu**, **.gov**, **.mil**, or **.org**.

WHY did they put it on the Web?

What are their intentions? Is the purpose to give a balanced and researched view of a topic, inform, educate, persuade or train? Is the purpose to entertain, sell, misinform, sensationalize, promote a certain bias agenda or fictionalize?