

Lecture no.: 19

Department: Information and Library Science

Subject: Information Storage & Retrieval

The lecture title: What are the Internet search tools and services-2

Dr. Arwa Z. Nasser

2. Subject directories

Subject directories differ from search engines in that most of them are assembled manually. Much like directories in the print media, subject directories are registries assembled by editors who determine which sites to include and exclude in their listings. Because of this subject directories tend to be smaller in index even less content than do search engines. x

By their very nature, subject directories are even more out of date than search engines. Since they do not store actual pages but rather direct to them, it is not uncommon to find that some of the addresses or search results no longer exist. Their main advantage is that they point to top-level addresses, and thus are perfect for searching for general topics as well as looking for products searches and the main sites of commercial establishments.

Examples:

- Yahoo - www.yahoo.com
- Librarian's Index – <http://www.lii.org>
- LookSmart - www.looksmart.com

Note

At present, most subject directories and search engines have either merged or have partnered with each other, and thus are almost no longer discernible from each other.

3. Invisible Web

The invisible web is so called since it refers to documents that cannot be ordinarily reached through search engines and subject directories,x and are thus 'invisible' It is generally believed to comprise the bulk of the Internet with estimates ranging from 60% to as much as 90% of all content. This content is generally largely made up of databases, and collections of databases, that cannot be easily directly accessed on the Web because they are password protected, hidden or in formats that are not generally used or searchable.

Usually very subject specific, the invisible Web is organized by professionals or individuals who have accumulated data on their particular interest. Search engines and subject directories usually exclude them from main-stream searches since they generate little interest to the bulk of users, but nonetheless they may still point to places or "vortals*" where they can be accessed.

Examples:

- Langenberg – <http://www.langenberg.com>
- Complete Planet - <http://www.completeplanet.com>
- Direct Search - <http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/direct.htm>

Meta-search engines

Meta-search engines send your search query to several search engines simultaneously and give you a consolidated report of their findings. It they does not maintain a database of its their own,x but makes use of technology to use multiple search engines simultaneously.

Examples:

- Metacrawler – <http://www.metacrawler.com>
 - Dogpile – <http://www.dogpile.com>
 - ProFusion – <http://www.profusion.com>
-

***An Internet site that provides a directory of links to information related to a particular industry.**

Specialized search engines

Specialized search engines that is dedicated to indexing web pages on specific topics

Examples:

Locate mailing lists and newsgroups

- The Lizt – <http://www.liszt.com>
- Mailbase – <http://www.mailbase.ac.uk>
- Dejanews – <http://www.dejanews.com>
- Google groups - <http://groups.google.com>

Other search tools and services

- FTP archives - locate files on anonymous FTP sites
 - o Ex. - ArchiePlex -<http://archie.emnet.co.uk/form.html>
- Web and e-mail people finder
- Ex. – Four11 – <http://people.yahoo.com> Multimedia search
 - o Ex. - Webseek - <http://www.ctr.columbia.edu/webseek/>
- Virtual Reference Libraries – online dictionaries, indexes, etc.
 - o Ex. Research-it – <http://www.iTools.com/research-it>
- Virtual Reference Desks – online reference services
 - o Ex – AskA+Locator -
<http://www.vrd.org/locator/subject.shtml>
- Z39.50 Gateways – gateways to library catalogs
 - o Ex – LC Online Catalog -
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/z3950/gateway.html>