Lecture no.: 17
Department: Information and Library Science
Subject: Information Storage & Retrieval
Name of the lecture: What are the Internet search tools and services?-1
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How to search for information on the Internet

Learning outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:
1. Identify the Internet search tools and services
2. Understand how to utilize the Internet tools and services
3. Use the Internet search tools and services
4. Locate tutorials and other Web- based training materials on how to use the Internet as an information resource

Scope

1. What are the ways to find information on the Internet?
2. What are the Internet search tools and services?
3. How to use the Internet tools and services?
4. How to find information on the Internet?

What are the ways to find information on the Internet?

- Net surfing تفحص الانترنت –involves scanning pages and clicking on links randomly. x It is a leisurely way of searching for information, highly unorganized and inefficient. Used for browsing the links provided on the current web page being viewed, in search of related valuable information.
- Using an URL – quickest way to find information on the Internet but you must know where it is located. It is quite effective but you may encounter problems in remembering the exact URL and in finding the document if the URL has been changed.
- Use search tools and services – can assist you in locating the information you need among the vast amount of information available on the Net.

What are the Internet search tools and services?
General classifications of Internet tools and services available through the World Wide Web:
- Search engines.
- Subject directories..
- Invisible Web.

- Meta-search engines.
- Specialized search engines.
- Other search tools

Search engines
Search engines are huge databases of web page files that have been assembled automatically by machine and are the best means for searching the web. Search engines compile their databases by employing "spiders" or "robots" ("bots") to crawl through the Internet, usually using embedded links.x They periodically search the World Wide Web and automatically index and store the information in their database. On the downside, web pages without links are usually missed in these searches. To circumvent this, most web authors place tags called META tags on their web pages enabling the search engines to track them.
In other words search engines An Internet tool which will search for sites containing the words that you designate as a search term
• Search engines search their own databases of information

Search engines are different from each other since they use their own proprietary programs for searching the Net. These software employ different types of indexing as well as relevancy صلة rankingترتيب systems, so searches using different search engines yield different results, in terms of as well as the number of 'hits' or the number of matching (documents) found and in the actual documents that comprise those hits.

Examples:
- Google - http://www.google.com
- Alltheweb - http://www.alltheweb.com
- Altavista - http://www.altavista.com

\To use search engines effectively, it is essential to apply techniques that narrow results and push the most relevant pages to the top of the results list. Below are a number of strategies for boosting search engine performance.   improving

1- IDENTIFY KEYWORDS

When conducting a search, break down the topic into key concepts. For example, to find information on what the FCC has said about the wireless communications industry, the keywords might be:

FCC wireless   communication

2- BOOLEAN Operators

a. BOOLEAN AND

Connecting search terms with **AND** tells the search engine to retrieve web pages containing **ALL** the keywords.

FCC and wireless and communication

The search engine will **not** return pages with just the word FCC. Neither will it return pages with the word FCC and the word wireless. The search engine will **only** return pages where the words FCC, wireless, and communication all appear somewhere on the page. Thus, AND helps to narrow your search results as it limits results to pages where all the keywords appear.

b. BOOLEAN OR

Linking search terms with **OR** tells the search engine to retrieve web pages containing **ANY** and **ALL** keywords.

(FCC or wireless or communication)

When OR is used, the search engine returns pages with a single keyword, several keywords, and all keywords. Thus, OR expands your search results. Use OR when you have common synonyms for a keyword. Surround OR statements with parentheses for best results. To narrow results as much as possible, combine OR statements with AND statements.

For example, the following search statement locates information on purchasing a used car:
(car or automobile or vehicle) and (buy or purchase) and used

c. BOOLEAN AND NOT or NOT

AND NOT or OR tells the search engine to retrieve web pages containing one keyword but not the other.

Dolphins **AND NOT** Miami

The above example instructs the search engine to return web pages about dolphins **but not** web pages about the "Miami Dolphins" football team. Use AND NOT when you have a keyword that has multiple meanings. The need for AND NOT often becomes apparent after you perform an initial search. If your

search results contain irrelevant results (e.g., Saturn the car rather than Saturn the planet), consider using AND NOT to filter out the undesired websites.

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http://www.learnwebskills.com/search/engines.html