

Intermediate Internet—Wells County Public Library Class

What is the Internet? A global network of computers that communicate through phone and satellites to host services such as email, chat, newsgroups and the World Wide Web.

Topics that will be covered today:

- General Search Tips
- Finding Telephone numbers
- Driving directions and maps
- Weather
- Investing
- Movie Listings
- Book reviews

General Search Tips:

What is a Search Engine? A software program connected to the Web through your Internet Service Provider (ISP). It allows you to search the Internet using key words or browse through a directory of topics that might be of interest to you.

What types of Search Engines are there?

Depending on the search engine Web site that you visit, each of the sites can include one or more of the following components:

- 1.) **Search Engine Query (or basic key word searches):** probably the most common type of search engine. It is a query function that searches a database of Web sites for specific words or phrases and then retrieves a list of sites that match your words or phrases. Examples of sites that perform simple search engine queries are: Google (www.google.com), Lycos (www.lycos.com), Ask.com (www.ask.com), and Alta Vista (www.altavista.com good for items, such as personal names).
- 2.) **Directory Search:** this is a directory of topics that can be selected by clicking on the link and following subsequent links to find the information you are searching for. It is compiled by human editors. Examples: Yahoo (<http://dir.yahoo.com/>) and Google (<http://directory.google.com/>) are search engines that provide directories.
- 3.) **Portal Searches:** a subject specialist or guide hosted on the Web site who has posted Web sites together on a specific topic. Examples of portals include About.com and Lycos (www.lycos.com). Lycos is a great place to survey what other people are searching for on the Internet.

For example.

Try this search for tips about decorating Easter eggs

Type in www.about.com

Type in the text box 'Decorating Easter Eggs'

Click on the first site under 'About.com Search Results,' [Decorating Easter Eggs](#)

Read through the tips on decorating Easter Eggs

Take note of the "See more about" links listed at the top

750 experts here to help you with:

easter eggs

GO

How can I do an advanced search?

The examples above demonstrate basic search engine strategies for a simple search. The easiest way to do an advanced search is to use the advanced search link on the search engine.

Suppose, for example, you wanted to find out what happened to the Faberge Eggs after the death of the Russian Romanov clan.

Go to Google by typing (www.google.com)

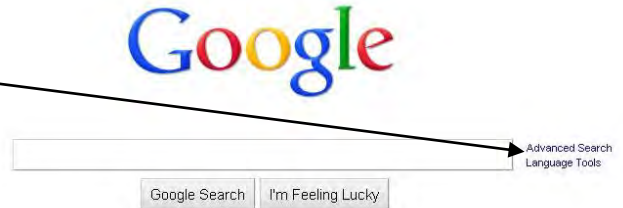
Click on Advanced Search

Type in 'all these words' search field 'Faberge eggs'

Type in 'one or more of these words' search field 'fate'

Click on Advanced Search button

Click on the first site [Faberge Eggs—the fate of the eggs on pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)



Are there any search engines that will search several engines at one time?

Yes, go to what is called a Meta Search Engine

- These include Dogpile (www.dogpile.com), Genius Find (www.geniusfind.com), Meta Crawler (www.metacrawler.com), and search.com.

Search Tips:

- 1.) Be specific- the most common search pitfall is searching too broadly. String together all the search terms that are relevant to your question. If you want a home remedy for dandruff, type 'home remedy dandruff' to find it. Add words such as introduction or tutorial to a search if you're looking for "how-to" information.
- 2.) Use exact phrases- use quotation marks around two words to limit your search to the exact phrase. Some search engines look for the exact phrase first, but using quotation marks can limit it further. Putting quotes around "bluegrass history" in Google, for example, cut the number of results from 2,960,000 to 58,000 results.
- 3.) Direct your search- Google will usually ignore the word 'or,' but if you use it in all caps, it will help broaden your search in a particular direction. Type 'vacation Bermuda OR Bahamas'—for example—to find vacation information about either of the two islands.
- 4.) Pay attention to the addresses or sites, especially the part after the "dot" which gives an indication of the type of site (.com – commercial, .gov – government, .edu- educational/school, .org – non-profit organization, etc.)
- 5.) Bookmark (or "add to favorites") good sites that you find for future use.
- 6.) Make sure to evaluate the information on the site to determine its accuracy (*review handout from Internet Basics Class*)

Finding Telephone Numbers:

www.switchboard.com

Find a Business

1. Type in the name of the company and then type the location of that company into the box.
2. If you are unsure of a company's name or you are looking for a general type of business, you can click on "Choose a Category." There will be several types of businesses listed alphabetically. Click on the category you wish to search, you'll be brought back to the original screen and you can then enter the location you wish to search.
3. Click the yellow "Search" button.
4. This will bring you to a listing of your company/companies. (There will probably be a few links at the top for advertising companies; ignore these!) The address, phone numbers, and Web sites of the companies should be listed.



Find a Person

1. Click on the "Find a Person" tab on the top of the page.
2. Type the person's last name, first name or initial if desired, and then the city and state or the appropriate zip code.
3. Click the yellow "search" button.
4. This will bring you to a page with the person's address and phone number.
5. You can click on additionally available information such as "driving directions" to get directions to that person's house. Be aware that some of these options may be paid services.

Also Try:

www.anywho.com, www.yellowbook.com, www.whitepages.com, or www.bigyellow.com

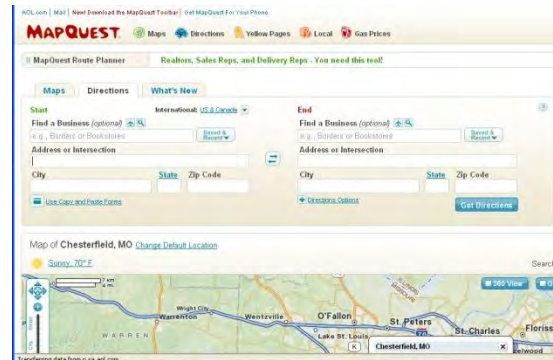
Driving Directions and Maps:

www.mapquest.com

Mapquest can be used:

- to pinpoint a location on a map and
- for directions to and from one location to another.

From their Web site just choose either the Maps or Directions tab.



Maps:

1. To find a location on a map, fill in the information under the tab marked “Maps” at the top of the screen. You can search for a town by filling in the city and the state and then clicking on the blue “Get Map” button. Or you can find a specific location by typing in the street address in addition to the town and state. (HINT Try searching by zip code instead of by the name of a town if you know it, especially for towns that have multiple zip codes). Note: Mapquest can’t always find every location.
2. When the map comes up, you can use the slider on the map to zoom in and out. And you can click and drag the map around to view areas to the left, right, above, and below of what is on the screen currently.

Directions:

1. To get directions, Use the “Directions” tab located next to the “Map” tab.
2. On the left side of the screen under the green “START,” type in the address for your starting point.
3. On the right side of the screen under the red “END” button, type in the address of your destination.
4. Click the blue “Get Directions” button. This will bring you to a page that will give you the approximate time it takes to travel from your start to end destination, step by step directions and a map showing your route.
5. You can print out the directions. Click “Print” which can be found directly below the Mapquest logo (use this as opposed to going to “File” and “Print,” since the page is designed to be printer friendly).
6. You can add a third location onto your route at this time, by clicking “Add another location.”

REMEMBER: Mapquest provides you with ONE particular set of directions. It might not be the route you would take and there might be mistakes. Always prepare for a trip by reading a paper map in addition to checking Mapquest or check more than one map site!

Also Try: www.randmcnally.com, <http://maps.yahoo.com>, www.mappoint.msn.com, www.mapsonus.com, or <http://maps.google.com/>

Weather:

www.weather.com

1. Search by zip code or city and state by typing your search in the white box that reads “Enter zip, city, or place.” Make sure the radial button “Local Weather” is marked. Then click search.
2. Some cities have multiple locations, so be sure to enter both city and state. If you forget, you can choose from a list of options on the next screen.
3. Scroll down the screen, you can get the forecast for today, hour-by-hour, tomorrow, weekend, a 10-day forecast and more. Check out all the options.
4. At the bottom will be a weather map.



Also try: <http://weather.yahoo.com>, www.cnn.com/weather, and www.accuweather.com

Investing:

<http://finance.yahoo.com>

At the Yahoo! Homepage click on the “Finance” button on the left of the page. Or you can go directly to finance.yahoo.com.

1. If you know the ticker symbol for the company you want to look up, you can type it in the box next to where it says “Get Quotes” and click enter.
2. If you don't know the ticker symbol of the company, you can click on the words “Finance Search.” Type the name of the company and click enter. It will take you to a search page where you can find the ticker symbol and click on the link to that company's finance page.



This will take you to a screen that tells you how that company is doing. Click on one of the links on the left side of the screen for more information about that company. You can investigate Historical Prices, look at a Basic Chart, review a company's Key Statistics, and even read an Analyst's Opinion.

Also Try: www.bigcharts.com, www.quote.com, www.money.cnn.com

Movie Listings:

<http://movies.yahoo.com>

1. Click on the “Movies” link on the Yahoo! Homepage or go directly to movies.yahoo.com.
2. You can search for movies in theaters or on DVD, those coming soon, and more options.
3. To find out what is playing at a particular movie theater, click the “Showtimes & Tickets” tab.

Then enter a zip code or city and state in the white box next labeled “Your Location” and click “Go.” The closest theaters to your selected area will be listed.

4. Click on the blue link for a specific theater or scroll down to display a list of movie show times for your local theaters.



5. If you click on a specific movie title, it will pull up a description of the movie, ratings, reviews, and more.
6. Another option is to select a title from a list of movies currently in theaters. Once that movie is displayed, enter your location on the box to the right labeled “Showtimes & Tickets” and “Please enter Location.”

www.imdb.com

IMDB (Internet Movie Database) is a great site if you want to see what movies an actor has been in or if you can't remember the name of an actor who starred in a certain movie. You can also read about movies currently in theaters, what is new on DVD and what movies are forthcoming. You can also read a list of their users top 250 movies and once on that page you can view favorite movies by genre.

Also Try: www.movies.go.com, www.fandango.com, www.hollywood.com

Book Reviews:
www.amazon.com

1. Search for a book using the search box in the middle of the screen.
2. Change were it says “All Departments” in the drop down search menu to “Books” and then type in a title or author and hit Enter or click “Go.”
3. This will bring you to a page with a list of books that Amazon thinks you want.
4. Click on the title of the book to see more details on the item you want.
5. Find reader reviews at the bottom of this page.
6. Editorial reviews are listed in the middle of the page. To view all of them click on the link “see all editorial reviews.” Scroll down the page to read reviews from all sources listed including: Library Journal, Booklist, and Publisher’s Weekly.



Also Try: www.bn.com, www.reviewsofbooks.com, www.nybooks.com,
www.nytimes.com/pages/books, www.powells.com, www.readinggroupguides.com,
<http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/Literature/Reviews/>

Where can I go for further education and help?

- **Help Screens:** Click the help screen link listed on most search engines or the specific Web site.
- **Tutorials:** Type in the tutorial you’d like to find in any of the search engines. For example if you want to find a tutorial on using the Google search engine, go to www.google.com and type into the keyword box ‘Google search engine tutorial’
- **Search Engine Watch:** Searchenginewatch.com – an authoritative guide to searching the Web using Search Engines

Search exercises you can try at Home:

Try this keyword search for the hours of the Wells County Public Library

Use the Google search bar or Type in Google (www.google.com) into the address bar
In the textbox type 'Wells County Public Library'
Look on their Web site to find their hours



Try this directory search for Web sites on gardening.

Type in <http://dir.yahoo.com>
Click on Recreation & Sports
Click on Hobbies
Click on Gardening
Scroll down the page for recommended Web sites on gardening



Say you were wondering if it was true that George Washington really had wooden teeth or were they made out of animal teeth and ivory?

Type into the Google search field 'george Washington +teeth+wooden OR animal OR ivory'
Our first search result returns Web sites that include books about his teeth which was not our intended results.
Refine the search by adding '-books' at the end
Click on any of the sites in your results list.

Other searches you might want to try:

Compare searches in Google and other search engines. Try these as query searches (Google), directory searches (Yahoo), or portal searches (About.com)

- 1.) You want to try building a new garden walkway as a spring project, try formulating key words to use for your search, or drill down through a search engine directory.**

- 2.) What types of flowers would you plant to attract birds or butterflies to your garden?**

- 3.) What is the earliest time you can set out tomato plants in Michigan?**

- 4.) How can you prevent ants from invading your home once the weather gets warmer?**

- 5.) Where can I find designs and building instructions for an outdoor shed?**

- 6.) What illnesses did George Washington have in his lifetime?**