Using Library Databases and the Internet for Research:

An Overview

Today’s Topics

Goal –
When you research a subject, you will be aware of the many online tools available for finding information and how best to use them.

- Brief Internet history
- Online encyclopedias
- Search engines
- Library research databases
The Internet

- Idea began in 1962 with a series of memos written by Dr. Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider, a director at the U.S Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

- Concept entitled “Galactic Network”

- The first Internet – ARPANET – was successfully demonstrated at the International Computer Communication Conference in 1972.

  http://www.internetsociety.org

The World Wide Web

- World Wide Web ≠ Internet

- Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web in 1989

- CERN places the World Wide Web technology in the public domain in 1993

  http://webfoundation.org/about/vision/history-of-the-web
The Early Days: Web Directories

- Web directories are organized Web site listings put together by human reviewers who consider the information to be of high quality.


Web Directories
Online Encyclopedias

Free Online Encyclopedias

To Wikipedia...or not...
Free Online Encyclopedias

Wikipedia Pros

- To generate ideas and learn new terminology associated with your topic
- To help generate search terms to use in searching more reliable sources. Pay attention to embedded links, bolded words, and the table of contents
- To find other more objective, reliable sources in the bibliography usually found at the bottom of each entry

Wikipedia Cons

- Information on Wikipedia is contributed by anyone who wants to post material, regardless of expertise level
- Contributors do not have to use their real names or provide any information about who they are – no transparency
- Information may be outdated, incorrect, or posted by someone who wants to spread misinformation, or by someone with an agenda

Free Online Encyclopedias

www.infoplease.com
Free Online Encyclopedias

http://www.scholarpedia.org

http://en.citizendium.org
Search Engines

“The Web is so unfathomably large that we can only guess its true size, and yet, web search engines can find relevant web pages in a fraction of a second.”

How Search Engines Work

Search Engines

https://www.netmarketshare.com
Search Engines

Meta Search Engines – metacrawlers don't crawl the web themselves to build listings. They allow searches to be sent to several search engines all at once, blending the top results on one page.

www.startpage.com
Newer Search Engines – may view results from sources such as blogs and social media, have results organized more like a “desktop,” protect privacy by not tracking search activity
Search Engines

https://duckduckgo.com

Search Engines

https://www.bing.com
Search Engines

http://www.qwant.com

General Internet Search Tips

- When using the Web, try more than one search engine

- Refine your keyword search
  - Get specific
  - Use “unique” words
  - Use synonyms

- Find *if* and *which* search operators work with the search engine you are using
### Google Specific Search Tips

#### Search Operators

You can use search operators and other punctuation to get more specific search results. Except for the examples below, Google Search usually ignores punctuation.

**Punctuation & symbols**

Even though you can use the punctuation marks below when you search, including them doesn’t always improve the results. If we don’t think the punctuation will give you better results, you’ll see suggested results for that search without punctuation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>How to use it</th>
<th>Examples:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Search for Google+ pages or blood types</td>
<td>:+Google, AB+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@</td>
<td>Find social tags</td>
<td>@agoogler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>Find prices</td>
<td>nikon $400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Find popular hashtags for trending topics</td>
<td>#throwbackthursday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- When you use a dash before a word or site, it excludes sites with that info from your results. This is useful for words with multiple meanings, like Jaguar the car brand and jaguar the animal.

  **Examples:** jaguar speed -car or pandas -site:wikipedia.org

- When you put a word or phrase in quotes, the results will only include pages with the same words in the same order as the ones inside the quotes. Only use this if you’re looking for an exact word or phrase, otherwise you’ll exclude many helpful results by mistake.

  **Example:** "imagine all the people"

- Add an asterisk as a placeholder for any unknown or wildcard terms.

  **Example:** "a * saved is a * earned"

- Separate numbers by two periods without spaces to see results that contain numbers in a range.

  **Example:** camera $50..$100
Google Specific Search Tips

Search Operators Cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>How to use it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>site:</td>
<td>Get results from certain sites or domains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples:</td>
<td>olympics site:nbc.com and olympics site:.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>related:</td>
<td>Find sites that are similar to a web address you already know.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
<td>related:time.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Find pages that might use one of several words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
<td>marathon OR race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>info:</td>
<td>Get information about a web address, including the cached version of the page, similar pages, and pages that link to the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
<td>info:google.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cache:</td>
<td>See what a page looks like the last time Google visited the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
<td>cache:washington.edu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: When you search using operators or punctuation marks, don’t add any spaces between the operator and your search terms. A search for site:nytimes.com will work, but site: nytimes.com won’t.

https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en

Analyzing Web Search Results

- Analyze Web results for trustworthiness:
  - **Audience** – To whom is the site directed – children, adults, students?
  - **Authority** – Is the author of the site listed? Can you determine his/her expertise? Is contact information given – phone number, address, e-mail? With what organization is he/she associated?
  - **Bias** – Does the language, tone, or treatment of its subject give the site a particular slant or bias? Is the site objective? Is it designed to sway opinion? Organizational affiliation can often indicate bias.
  - **Currency** – Is the site up-to-date with working links? Are dates given for when it was created and last updated? Is the topic current?
  - **Scope** – Is the site an in-depth study of the topic going several pages deep, or is it a superficial, single-page look at the subject? Are statistics and sources referenced properly cited?
Surface Web

Yahoo!

Bing

Google

Deep Web

Academic /Scientific Databases
Financial Records
Legal Documents

Some Government Reports
Some Organization-Specific Repositories
Subscription-Only Information

TOR-Encrypted Sites
Illegal Activity

Political Protest
Hackers

Dark Web

Library
Research
Databases

http://tamucc.libguides.com/deepweb
Library Research Databases

- Contain information from published works, such as magazines, professional journals, newspaper articles, encyclopedias, and reference books.
- Are searchable by keywords, subject, author, magazine, title, date, etc.
- Provide citation information (author, title, publication, publisher, date of publication).
- Often contain full-text articles, in addition to citations, which you can save, share, or print.
- Can be specific to a topic or type of information, such as Biography Resource Center or Business Source Premier.

Library Research Databases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Research Databases</th>
<th>Websites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get information from professionals or experts in the field</td>
<td>Can be written by anyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contain published works where facts are checked</td>
<td>Content is not necessarily checked by an expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are easy to cite, often create a bibliography citation for you</td>
<td>Often don’t provide the information necessary to create a citation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can help you narrow your topic or suggest related topics</td>
<td>Often aren’t organized to support research needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are updated frequently</td>
<td>May not indicate when the information was updated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from the Hennepin County Library website
Library Research Databases

kdfa.ky.gov

Library Research Databases

Research Databases for State Employees

- KY Virtual Library
- KyNL
- WorldCat Discovery
- NewsBank

Tomorrow’s workforce requires access to the latest information to stay competitive.

Who is classified as a State Employee?
This classification includes persons working in executive, legislative and judicial agencies, commissions, boards, etc.
Employees of public school systems and public higher education institutions can be served by these public and institutional libraries.

Login Procedure:
- Be sure you are using a supported web browser.
- Enter your credentials into the login box.
- Click the login button.
- The system will accept and process your login information.

- KYOC
- KYVL
- Kentucky State Digital Archives
- Public Library
- Public Library Directory
- WorldCat
- WorldCat Library
- Kentucky State Library
- Kentucky Libraries

- Connect with KDLA
Library Research Databases

Research Databases for State Employees

- Newspapers
- Articles – magazines, professional journals, reference materials
- People/Business Directory
- Homeland Security

Library Research Databases
Library Research Databases

NewsBank

Library Research Databases

NewsBank
Library Research Databases

KYVL-EBSCO

Library Research Databases

KYVL-ProQuest
Library Research Databases

ProQuest’s Alt-Press Watch

Library Research Databases
Library Research Databases

Reference USA

Library Research Databases

Reference USA - Consumer
Library Research Databases

Reference USA - Business

Library Research Databases

Research Databases for State Employees

Login Procedure

- Select a database.
- When prompted, type in your KDLA account number and password.
- If your account number has not changed and you may be required to reset your password, fill in the following short online form:

Who Is Classified as a State Employee?

This classification includes persons working in executive, legislative and judicial agencies, commissions, boards, etc.

Employees of public school systems and public higher education institutions can be served by our public and institutional libraries.

Connect with KDLA
Library Research Databases

General Database Search Tips

- **Wildcard**: use # to replace a character in a word in order to get all variations of that word. Ex.: wom#n
- **Truncation**: use * to search the root or plural of a word. Ex.: manag*, infant*
- **Double Quotations**: use “..” for phrases. Ex.: “Kentucky State Hospital”
- **Boolean Operators**: use AND, OR, and NOT operators to combine or exclude keywords in your search. Ex.: salary OR income, bears NOT grizzly
- **Parentheses**: use ( ) to control and define the way the search will be executed. Ex.: (dog or cat) and (show or parade)
Finding Database Subject Headings

- Look to see if the database has an online thesaurus to browse for subjects that match your topic.

- Start with a keyword search, using words/phrases that describe your topic.
- Browse the results; choose 2 or 3 that are relevant.
- Look at the Subject or Descriptor field and note the terms used (write them down).
- Redo your search using those terms.
Library Research Databases

[Image of Library Research Databases]

Library Research Databases

[Image of Library Research Databases]
Library Research Databases

Sweet Water library

Library Research Databases

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Library Research Databases
Contact Us

- In Person – 300 Coffee Tree Rd, Frankfort
  9:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday

- By Phone - 502-564-8306
  Toll free – 800-928-7000, option #3
  8:00-4:30, Mon.-Fri.

- Online - Ask-A-Librarian
  http://kdda.ky.gov/employees/sgasklib/Pages/default.aspx