

Searching The Web

Activity Instructions

The purpose of this activity is to become more familiar with search engines to find desired information. Start by selecting a topic of interest and then searching for information related to the topic. Do this by using three of the four Search Engines/Subject Guides listed. Record your topic, keywords, and results in the boxes. Each search should use a different search engine/subject guide. Different search engines have different advanced search techniques; they each provide information on how to utilize their service.

Search Engines/Subject Guides

Yahoo
<http://www.yahoo.com>

Excite
<http://www.excite.com>

Hotbot
<http://www.hotbot.com>

AltaVista
<http://altavista.digital.com>

Search Data

Your Topic:

(e.g., heart attacks)

Key Words or Phrases:

(e.g., heart attack, stroke,
heart failure, cardiac arrest)

First Search

Site Used:

(e.g., Yahoo, Excite)

Key Words or Phrases

Used:

(e.g., Boolean search: heart
AND (attack OR failure)

Results:

(i.e., number of returns or
hits, sites found, did you like
the Search Engine/Subject
Guide?)

Second Search

Site Used:

(e.g., Yahoo, Excite)

Key Words or Phrases

Used:

(e.g., Boolean search: heart
AND (attack OR failure)

Results:

(i.e., number of returns or
hits, sites found, did you like
the Search Engine/Subject
Guide?)

Third Search

Site Used:

(e.g., Yahoo, Excite)

Key Words or Phrases

Used:

(e.g., Boolean search: heart
AND (attack OR failure)

Results:

(i.e., number of returns or
hits, sites found, did you like
the Search Engine/Subject
Guide?)

Notes for Trainers

This activity should be done individually. After everybody is finished, come together as a whole group to discuss the URLs. Some search engines are specialized and this would be a topic you could discuss during this activity. *Big Book* is a directory of businesses. *Switchboard* finds people; over 90 million people are listed. There is a *Yahoo* for kids as well as one for adults. Most people begin to select favorite search engines once they have spent some time searching. This activity is an assistant to compare different strategies of searching as well as navigate sites.