

V. *Surfing the Internet*

Not since Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press, has one medium had such an impact on research and the information-seeking process as has the Internet. Think of the Internet as a vast electronic storage facility which contains a mind-boggling number of **electronic documents**, which are created by individuals, commercial enterprises, governmental and educational institutions, and others. These documents which reside on computers (servers) are connected by hyperlinks, and are accessible oftentimes within just a few clicks of the mouse.

A. *Structure and Attributes*

Even though the Internet is one gigantic database, it contains no organizational structure. Even though most information on the Internet may be obtained free of charge, some sites require a paid subscription. For example, some newspapers allow you to read an issue in its entirety, while others may only allow you to read citations and/or abstracts unless you have a subscription to that particular newspaper. As you explore Internet resources, the most important factor to remember about the Internet is that it is uncensored, that is, the information you retrieve has not been screened, edited or put through the referee or peer review process. **NOTE:** The databases your library offers via its web page have been screened, reviewed, and edited.

B. *Search Tools*

1. *Search Engines*

These are used to search for large amounts of resources on the Internet. These tools can be quite useful when searching for unique words or phrases. When choosing a search engine, keep in mind that each search engine searches different numbers and types of sources. Some of the most popular and widely known search engines are as follows:

- **Google** (<http://www.google.com>): This search engine has been voted Most Outstanding Search Engine three times. **Google** is a crawler-based service which provides comprehensive and relevancy-based coverage of the **World Wide Web**. As a search engine, it is probably the best place for the first stop in your quest for information from the Internet. For additional information concerning **Google**, go to the

following web address:

<http://searchenginewatch.com>.

- **AllTheWeb.com** (<http://www.alltheweb.com>): If you tried a search on **Google** and couldn't find what you were looking for, you might want to try this search engine. **AllTheWeb** uses crawler-based technology to provide both comprehensive web coverage, and results which can be highly relevant to your topic.
- **Yahoo** (<http://www.yahoo.com>): Although commonly thought of as a search engine, **Yahoo** is actually the Internet's oldest directory launched in 1994. In 2002, Yahoo began using crawler-based listing for its main results. In addition, **Yahoo** complements **Google's** listings with information from its own directories in order to help make search results more readable. Finally, with its directories and subdirectories, **Yahoo** can help you narrow and refine your search topic.
- **Alta Vista** (<http://www.altavista.com>): Founded in 1995, this database provides full text searching and a link to its directory which is composed of editor-reviewed sites. In addition, this search engine offers multilingual searching on the web.
- **Ask Jeeves** (<http://www.askjeeves.com>): This engine became prominent in 1998 and 1999 for its "natural language" searching capabilities which allow you to state your query in the form of a question and responds by returning hits which provided a high degree of relevancy. They accomplished this feat by having 100 editors monitoring the search logs. They searched the web in turn, and located the sites which matched the most popular queries. Later, **Ask Jeeves** incorporated crawler-based technology into its system in order to provide results to their users.
- **HotBot** (<http://www.hotbot.com>): Provides access to the Web's four major crawler-based search engines: **FAST**, **Google**, **Inktomi**, and **Teoma**. However, unlike "meta search engines" it does not consolidate the results of your searches,

which can be somewhat cumbersome. By the same token, by just a few more clicks of the mouse, the researcher can gain access to results from different search engines without having to type the URL of each search engine.

- **Dogpile** (<http://www.dogpile.com>): This metasearch site sends your search string to a customizable list of search engines, directories, and specialty search sites, and then compiles and displays your results from each search engine individually.

2. *Tips for Using Search Engines*

- Before performing searches via search engines, always look for the “**help**” button.
- Be aware of the types of results you may retrieve. For example, *Alta Vista* offers free-text-index searching which means that if your search term appears anywhere in the document, it will be retrieved. This can result in large numbers of **false drops**, which means documents will be retrieved that have little or nothing to do with your topic.

3. *Search Features:*

Search Engine Math Commands are as follows:

<u>Command</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Supported by</u>
Must include term	+	All engines
Must exclude term	-	All engines
Must include phrase	“ “	All engines

Match all terms	Automatic	All engines
	Via Advanced Search	AllTheWeb Alta Vista Google Yahoo
Match any terms	OR	Alta Vista Ask Jeeves Google HotBot Yahoo AllTheWeb

- **Hint: Be Specific.** Search engines are not mind readers. Tell a search engine exactly what you are looking for. Should you want to find sites which have references to both **nursing** and **cancer** on the same page, you would use the addition symbol (+):

+nursing+cancer

- You would find pages that contain both words on the same page.
- To narrow or refine your search to include pages that have the words **nursing**, **cancer**, and **patients**, your search would look like this:

+nursing+cancer+patients

- You should be able to find pages with all three words dealing with nursing cancer patients.
- To further refine and enhance your search, you may want to use Quotation Marks “ ”, which tells the engine you are doing what is known as a **phrase search**. This type of search retrieves only pages that have all the words in the exact order you want. For example, your search may look something like this:

“nursing cancer patients”

- This search will retrieve pages having “nursing cancer patients” in that exact order.

Power Searching Commands

Command	How	Supported by
Title Search	title:	Alta Vista AllTheWeb
	intitle:	Google Teoma
	allintitle:	Google
Site Search	host:	Alta Vista
	site:	Google Yahoo
	url.host: domain	AllTheWeb HotBot
	none:	HotBot Yahoo
	url:	Alta Vista
URL Search	url.all:	AllTheWeb
	Allinurl: inurl	Google
	u: none:	Yahoo HotBot
Link Search	link:	AltaVista Google
	linkdomain:	HotBot

	linkall:	AllTheWeb
	none:	HotBot Yahoo
<hr/>		
	*	Yahoo
	?	AOL
Wildcard Search	%	Northern Lights
	none:	AllTheWeb Google HotBot
<hr/>		
Anchor Search	none:	Google HotBot
<hr/>		

4. *Types of Web Sites*

The Internet offers a wide variety of web sites which provides an overwhelming amount of data to suit just about any information need or request. Through the Internet, you can obtain the latest news, weather, advertisements for companies and their products, entertainment information, educational information, and so forth. You can even do your shopping online if you wish. However, in order to determine the nature of the web sites you are interested in, you need to look at the ***Uniform Resource Locator (URL)*** domains. A URL is an Internet address which tells the browser where to find the web site you are looking for. For example, the Brown-Daniel Library's URL as follows: <http://www.tnstate.edu/library>.

5. *Most Commonly Used Domains:*

- Educational Institution: **.edu** (<http://www.tnstate.edu>)
- Government Site : **.gov** (<http://www.senate.gov>)
- Organizations or associations: **.org** (<http://www.nursingworld.org>)

- Commercial Sites: **.com** (<http://www.amazon.com>)

6. Internet Information Categories:

a. Free Web Sites

Since the library provides you with access to electronic and print resources, we recommend that you use our materials before exploring the Internet. However, we also know that some valuable information can be obtained from the Internet if you know where to look.

- **Company Information:** You can always read about a company on its web site. For example, if you wanted to look at information concerning Pfizer, you could type in their web address: <http://www.pfizer.com>, or use **Google** and type in the word **Pfizer**, you would receive about **680,000** hits. If you searched for **Eli Lilly** with the same search engine, you would retrieve about **386,000** hits. However, keep in mind that these sites are trying to promote their products. Should you want objective information about a particular company, you will want to use the library's print and electronic resources in order to obtain the most unbiased data and information possible.
- **Current Events or Topics:** The Internet can also be quite useful in finding information on hot topics and current events in the nursing field. For example, the web site, Nurses.com (<http://www.nurses.com>) provides links to recent articles which may never occur in print.
- **State and Federal Government Information:** Most, if not all, state and government agencies have their own web sites which provide data about their offices, policies and procedures, congressional hearings and other useful information. For instance, information about the **Tennessee Board of Nursing** may be found by performing a search via **Google** or other search engine or by using your library's web page by clicking on **Tennessee Resources**, and then clicking on **Department of Health**, and

then type in *Nursing Board*, and it will take you to a list of links. Then click on the top link, and it will take you to the *Tennessee Department of Health's Board of Nursing* site. If you should need information about a department in the Federal Government, such as the *U. S. Department of Health and Human Services* you can use a search engine or for other agencies, you may use your library's web site and use the link *Government Resources*.

- *Information About and From Associations, Organizations, and Others:* Should you be trying to locate information concerning contact information, or to share expertise, you can use a search engine such as *Google*, to locate their web site. For example, when you look up the *American Nurses Association*, you will find links to contact information, conference proceedings, news related to the profession and organization, nursing resources, and other types of helpful information. The web address for this organization is as follows:
<http://www.nursingworld.org>.

b. World Wide Web Resources at TSU

- *Virtual Reference*
- *Tennessee Resources*
- *Government Resources*

c. Nursing Web Sites

- [National League for Nursing](#)
- [Tennessee Board of Nursing](#)
- [National Student Nurses' Association](#)
- [American Nurses Association](#)
- [Tennessee Department of Health](#)