

Compiled by Ralph Zingarella

1. List 4 major search engines and a major directory.

We won't attempt to list them all here. For a list of search engines, directories, meta-search engines and all their functions, check www.searchenginewatch.com or Wikipedia's list of search engines.

If you are looking for "kidcentric" type search tools, try NoodleTools:

NoodleQuest Search Strategies

Wizard: <http://www.noodletools.com/noodlequest> and

Boolify: <http://www.boolify.org/>

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

- Try to find a subject specific database in your area of expertise.
- Give students sample research problems from which they access NoodleTools to help them select appropriate search tools.

2. What is a blog?

Blog is short for weblog – it is literally a log of the Web.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

To see a blog in action, go to <http://www.theelem.org>. This blog started as a literary discussion forum on the book *Mississippi Trial*, 1955 by Chris Crowe.

↓
MISSISSIPPI TRIAL. blog-spot.com

3. Why might you use quotation marks when conducting a search?

Use “quotation marks” to ensure your keywords appear in your search results in the order you have specified. You would use them if you wanted to research a given phrase. For example, if you conduct a search for global warming, a search WITHOUT quotation marks would find sites that include the words “global” AND “warming” – the words do not have to appear together and you will get more hits than you probably want.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students use a search engine such as

Google: www.google.com and search for a phrase, such as renewable resources without quotation marks, then with quotation marks. Have them note the differences in the number of results.

4. URL is an acronym for...

Uniform Resource Locator

5. Identify three Boolean search terms. What is a Boolean Search

A type of search allowing users to combine keywords with operators such as AND, NOT and OR to further produce more relevant results. For example, a Boolean search could be "hotel" AND "New York". This would limit the search results to only those documents containing the two keywords.

AND, OR, NOT

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students create example search queries using Boolean Operators.

6. How do you find the owner or publisher of a website?

Go to www.easywhois.com and enter the URL of the site you would like to research.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students find owner information for the site www.harrypotter.com

7. Identify these extensions and what they represent:

.org – organization

.com – company

.sch – school (used outside of US)

.k12 – most US school sites

.edu – US higher ed

.gov – US government (add country code for outside US)

.ac – higher ed outside of US usually used with country code, example, “.ac.uk”

.net – network

.mil – US military

.co – Company (if paired with a country code, example “.co.uk,” the state of Colorado or the country, Columbia)

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

It's really important that students are familiar with these

extensions. Create a match game or have them identify the extension within sample URLs.

8. How do you find out who is linked to your school's website?

Go to Google: www.google.com and do a link: command search. In the search box type link:your school's address.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

This is called searching for external links. You can search for the external links on any website with the link command. Consider using some of the bogus websites. Look for a list on our Information Literacy page.

9. What clues in a Web address might indicate you are on a personal website?

Look for a tilde “~” or the “%” sign or a personal name “jdoe” or the word “user” after the domain name and the first forward slash “/”

10. How would you conduct a search for the following: a list of websites of all the academic institutions in South Africa?

Go to Google: www.google.com and type site:ac.za in the search box

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students search for subject specific resources around the world using extensions and country codes. For a full list,

visit http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/text/web_country_codes.html

11. How do you find the history of any given website?

Use the Wayback Machine. Go to www.archive.org and type the URL of the website you would like to research into the search box.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students look at the history of the Harry Potter website:

www.harrypotter.com. Why has it changed so much over the years?

12. How would you conduct a search for the following: US higher education websites that contain the word turtle.

Go to Google: www.google.com and type “site:edu + turtle” in the search box.

Follow-up Activities for Teachers and Students:

Have students search for school websites in a particular subject area.

13. How do sites get to the top of a results' list in Google?

One factor Google uses to rank sites is popularity. It counts the number of links from sites all around the Web. For example, if a large number of sites has a specific keyword somewhere on their website along with a link to a particular site, Google counts the number of times the keyword appears along with the number of links to a particular site.

The higher number of links to a site, the higher Google will rank that site on a list of results. There are several additional factors as well, including but not limited to the title of the site, the site's meta information and the actual content of the site.