Become a Sophisticated Search Engine User!

Click on any word in red to see more information on that topic!

Did you know that over 56% percent of online Americans are using search engines? Yet, these online searchers only retrieve their desired information 50% of the time. To become a more effective and efficient online searcher, it is essential to understand how search engines work and how to enter effective search statements. In this month's Talkin' Tech, we will review three popular search engines: Google, Teoma, and Yahoo.

How do Search Engines Work?

Search engines do not search the World Wide Web (www), but search a database that contains full-text records of web pages. The search engines' databases are constructed by programs called spiders. Spiders crawl the web looking for new pages to include in their database. However, spiders will not find websites that are not linked to other pages. Also, the full-text webpage that is stored in the search engine database is only as current as the last crawl that the spider performed. If a spider crawl is not performed frequently, a search engine may not retrieve the most current or relevant results.

Google Search Engine

In 1999, Google launched its first beta search engine. Since then, Google's simple web page has risen to become the most popular search engine. Google retrieves results and ranks the result by the relevance of your search terms. Also, Google is an enormous search engine. Although the exact amount of web pages that Google searches is unknown, the total is at least 8,058,044,651.

In addition to the vast amount of web pages to search, Google allows a user to exclude or include information results. For instance, if you want to find a search term in only PowerPoint files, Google will only find the search term in PowerPoint files and will exclude all other information. Google also provides easy domain searching, safe-searching (retrieves web sites with no adult content), and will return results in over 40 languages. For more information, please review Basic Searching with Google and Advanced Searching with Google. Google is located at www.google.com

FACULTY NOTE: Google Scholar is a relatively new service offered by Google. Google Scholar allows the user to search for only scholarly literature. To view how a Google Scholar search is performed, please review Step-by-Step Instructions on using Google Scholar.
Search Engines

Links that will answer your Google questions:

Basic Searching with Google
Advanced Searching with Google
Step-by-Step Instructions on using Google Scholar
Compare Google to other Search Engines
*Search Tips from CCAC's Librarians*
CCAC: Library: Evaluating Web Sites

Teoma Search Engine
In 2000, computer scientists at Rutgers University created Teoma, a search technology. Teoma, which means “expert” in Gaelic, uses Subject-Specific Popularity to rank the relevance of the website. “Subject-Specific Popularity ranks a website based on the number of same-subject pages that reference it”; therefore, Teoma is different than Google, which ranks websites based on popularity.

Another one of Teoma’s key features is **Refine and Resources**. Refine and Resources aid a search engine user to edit their search with a simple click. Please review [Searching with Teoma](#) and [Step-By-Step Preview of Teoma’s Refine and Resources Feature](#) for more information. Teoma is located at [www.teoma.com](http://www.teoma.com)

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### Links that will answer your Teoma questions:

- [Searching with Teoma](#)
- [Step-By-Step Preview of Teoma’s Refine and Resources Feature](#)
- [Compare Teoma to other Search Engines](#)
- **[Search Tips from CCAC's Librarians](#)**
- [CCAC: Library: Evaluating Web Sites](#)

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**Yahoo Search Engine**
With over 3 billion indexed websites and easy to use search features, Yahoo Search went from being a student hobby to one of the most recognized and used search and information services. Yahoo, which is an acronym for "Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle", is one of the few search engines that has had substantial assistance by librarians and librarian students who aim to organize the web.

Furthermore, Yahoo Search has easy to use Shortcuts that enables you to track gas prices, find information on flight delays, search for pictures or videos, movie showtimes, and much more. Please review Basic Search with Yahoo and Step-By-Step Preview of Yahoo's Gas Shortcut for more information. Yahoo Search is located at www.search.yahoo.com

Links that will answer your Yahoo questions:
Basic Search with Yahoo
Step-By-Step Preview of Yahoo's Gas Shortcut
Compare Yahoo to other Search Engines
*Search Tips from CCAC's Librarians*
CCAC: Library: Evaluating Web Sites

Other Search Engines and Indexes you may want to check out:
Search Engines

- Kid's Tool For Searching
- Librarians' Index to the Internet
- Vivisimo (Searches several search engines)
- Surf wax (Searches several search engines)
- Metacrawler (Searches several search engines)
- DogPile (Searches several search engines)

Let's Begin Searching!!!

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