

Tips for Searching:



- **Use Databases**
The best things on the web *aren't* free! Databases are the best source of information for school projects – and your library has already paid for them.
- **Use Multiple Search Engines**
Everyone loves Google, but there are other search engines to try! The major search engines work in different ways and have different strengths. Try the same search in Yahoo!, MSN, and Exalead to expand your results.
- **Use Advanced Search Features**
Don't forget to use the Advanced Search to include a wider set of results, build a more specific search, or limit your results to one type of website (i.e., .gov or .edu). Using the Advanced Search Feature means that you don't have to remember exactly how each engine works – you're letting the web developers figure that out!
- **New Site? New Window!**
Opening links to new sites in new windows prevents you from losing your list of search results and helps you to keep track of which sites you've visited.
- **Get Creative**
Use your vocabulary and your brain. If the first terms you try don't getting any hits, try synonyms or similar terms. If that doesn't work broaden your search by finding sites with information on the same general topic – then see if those sites use other terms for your topic.
- **Verify Information**
Try to find at least two sites that provide the same information – or better yet verify the information in a subscription database.
- **Use Reliable Sources**
Databases, .gov, and .edu sites are good places to find information. Use sites associated with known organizations (a public television show, a specific television channel, or a specific author). Look in the “About” section of a website – remember a professor at a well-known university is a better source of information than your Uncle Larry or a second grade class!

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“Help My Research Paper is Due Tomorrow!”
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