

Searching the Internet: Quick Tips

One way to locate web sites on a topic is to use search engines. Search your topic in a search engine and it will display a list of web sites about your topic. Then click on the name of the web site to view it.

To search the web using a search engine you must use a computer with access to the Internet (the computers in the Library and the Learning Center have Internet access). Using a computer with Internet, start up an Internet browser (a computer program that allows you to view the Internet) such as Explorer, Netscape or AOL. In the location box, at the top of the screen, type in the address for a search engine. See the list below of three useful search engines and their addresses. Start with the search engine called the Librarians' Index to the Internet.

<u>Search Engine</u>	<u>Address</u>
Librarians' Index to the Internet	http://www.lii.org
Google	http://www.google.com
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com

SEARCH TIPS FOR USING SEARCH ENGINES

- **Phrase Searching:**

Requires your terms all appear in exactly the order you enter them and right next to each other. This should be done when searching a person's name. To do phrase searching in most search engines just place quotations " " around the phrase.

Examples:

"Abraham Lincoln"

"Ronald Reagan"

- **Combining Ideas (Boolean Logic):**

When typing your search into a search engine, use the word AND between different ideas. This will ensure that both ideas will appear in each web site that is listed.

Examples:

"Abraham Lincoln" AND president

"Abraham Lincoln" AND president AND "civil war"

EVALUATING WEBSITES

Once you locate a web page on your topic, ask yourself some of the following questions about the page: Who is the author? What organization supports this page (company, school, non-profit or government)? Do you see any spelling or grammatical errors? How old is the information? What is the purpose of this page? Does it contain information about my topic?