



Library Research Tips

Search Engines & Search Directories

Search Engines rely on electronic “crawlers” to frequently scan the internet for sites to add to their database. When you use a search engine, you are searching its database and not the entire Web even though a huge number of results are typically generated from a search.

The most reliable or relevant websites are not necessarily among the first results from your search. Results are ordered based on a combination of a search algorithm and website popularity.

Examples:

- Google www.google.ca
- Yahoo <http://ca.yahoo.com/>
- Bing www.bing.ca
- Ask.Com www.ask.com

Search Directories rely on people who are subject specialists rather than electronic “crawlers” to pull information from the internet.

These people evaluate the resources they select, which web crawlers do not. You may find fewer results, but search directories allow you to search by category or by subject which is helpful because it allows you to find highly relevant material organized logically.

Examples:

- ipl2 www.ipl.org
- Yahoo! Directory <http://dir.yahoo.com>
- Open Directory Project www.dmoz.org

Visit the library website: www.nait.ca/library