

Beginning Computers

Lesson 2

Sue Klein, Facilitator

Your Basic Search Strategy

When we look for topics on the Net, we always begin with a search engine, usually Google. You use all search engines in more or less the same way:

1. Start your Web browser, such as Firefox or Internet Explorer.
2. Go to your favorite search engine's home page. Try one of your web addresses (www.google.com, www.yahoo.com or <http://dmoz.org>) OR just click in the search box in the upper right corner of your browser window to the right of the address box.
3. Type some likely keywords in the Search box (either your browser's search box or the search box that appears on the search engine's home page) and press Enter.
After a delay the search engine returns a page with some links to pages that it thinks match your keywords.
4. Be as exact as you can with your search words: for example, if you type Automobile, you will get thousands of hits, a very long list. If you put in Toyota, it will give less hits.
5. Type in "Movie Posters" – many hits, type in "Movie Poster 1930's" – less hits, type in "Movie Posters 1930's Clark Cable" even less hits – it is important that you put the "quotation marks" around your search, it will keep the words together and the machine will look for that phase – without the quotation marks the search will list every website that has each individual word in the title.

Fun Stuff to do on the Internet

Tour The Earth

At <http://earth.google.com> is a downloadable program that lets you fly around the earth and zoom in and out. After you get fairly close to the ground, you find links to pictures contributed by users, links to Wikipedia (look at South Georgia).

Watch The World Go By

Go to <http://Onlinecamera.com> and you will see webcams which are live video cameras. The cameras let you see what is happening right now – whenever that camera is pointing right now.

Art Museums Around the World

www.Louvre.fr click English in the upper right corner if you don't read French(Louvre Museum in Paris)

www.Mfa.org , the Boston Museum of Fine Arts

www.metmuseum.org, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

www.hermitagemuseum.org The State Hermitage Museum in Russia

Check out the spectacular color photographs from Tsarist Russia by Sergei Prokudin-Gorskii, digitally reconstructed by the Library of Congress, at www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire and the amazing American Memory collection of historical photos at <http://memory.loc.gov> You can find a wide selection of other museums at

http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Museums_Galleries_and_Centers (2 underscores between Museums and Galleries and 2 underscores between Galleries and and)

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Fun Sites to Visit

Advanced Book Exchange (www.abebooks.com) ABE offers the combined catalogs of thousands of secondhand booksellers. You pay the same as you would in the used bookshop (plus shipping) and you save hours of searching. Whether you're looking for a favorite book from your childhood or a rare first edition.

AddALL (www.Addall.com) AddALL offers titles from thousands of used-book stores as well as a price comparison service for new books.

Travel Directions

1. Type in www.Google.com,
2. click on Maps
3. A map of the United States appears
4. Click on AZ – if you double click it enlarges it
5. Left hand column click “Get Directions”
6. Box A type starting point, full address including city/state/Zip
7. Box B type your destination, , full address including city/state/Zip
8. Click “Get Directions”
9. Directions will appear in the left hand column
10. Upper right hand corner a button that appears as a small printer, click it
11. 3 choices appear
12. Click “Print Preview”
13. If map and directions do not fit on one page
14. Click on “Shrink to Fit”
15. Try 70% or any other percentage to see the map and directions on one page OR keep it larger so the map is one page and the directions are on another page
16. Print...you can use your directions in the car