

- "Keywords" - Before going "online", jot down some keywords about the topic that you are researching. For example, for a book you might have "The Title", "The author's name", and the location or setting. Remember, the better you pick your keywords, the better the search results will be!
- Although most search tools support the use of Boolean logic terms AND(+), OR, and NOT(-), to refine your search, they don't always treat them the same. However, many search tools support the use of "quotation marks" around an exact phrase or group of words. This will narrow (refine) your results and will save you a lot of time!
- "Try several different search tools" - Search tools work differently. No single tool can index the Web completely. If you need a very thorough search, pick three or four and use one right after the other. Compare the results and explore the sites that look the most promising (relevant) and accurate (authoritative)!
- Once you find the type of information you were looking for, check the source. "Trustworthy Sources" - Look for information from official sites of recognizable institutions, like colleges and universities, well-known companies and businesses, official government resources, etc. to help avoid "inaccurate" or even false information.

Indexing Search Engine Examples:

Google - www.google.com

AltaVista - www.altavista.com

Search Directory Examples:

HotBot - www.hotbot.com

Yahoo - www.yahoo.com

Natural Language/Question-Answer Search Tool

Ask.com - www.ask.com

Kid/Student-Friendly Search Tool Examples:

Ask (for) Kids - www.askkids.com

Yahoo (for) Kids - www.kids.yahoo.com

Eduhound - www.eduhound.com

KidsClick - www.kidsclick.org

Five Quick Tips

For Better Internet Searching

1. Use "Indexing" engines for specific terms and "Directories" for general or popular information.
2. Use precise keywords - such as "*Call of the Wild*", instead of *Dog Books*.
3. Put exact phrases or multi-word searches in quotation marks.
4. Use "operators" (AND, OR, NOT, +, and -) or a Search Tool's "Advanced Search" features...to focus (narrow) the results.
5. Check the source of the information. Is it from an authoritative reputable source... where the information is more likely to be accurate and current?

This page is also available online at: <http://k-12.pisd.edu/techs/train.htm> then click on "Internet Searching Tips for Educational Research".