SEARCHING FOR WEBSITES

The internet is the set of networks connecting millions of people worldwide. It is accessed through a browser such as Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari. This page will guide you in searching for websites on the internet.

ORGANIZE YOUR SEARCH

If you know the address of the website you wish to visit, you can type it directly into the address bar at the top of your browser window. If you do not know the exact address of the website you need, or you are not even sure what websites are available, search engines will allow you to type in key words for your topic and direct you to websites that match. To find websites that are the most useful for you, make sure that the words you enter into the search box accurately reflect the information you need to find. Currently the most popular search engines are Google (google.com), Yahoo (yahoo.com), and Bing (bing.com), but there are many others available.

FIND QUALITY WEBSITES

The address of a website, commonly referred to as its URL, provides information about who created the website. Most websites begin with http://www. – meaning the page is located on the World Wide Web.

The next part of the URL is often the name or a shorthand version of the name of the website. For example, Google’s address is http://www.google.com. Here’s another URL and its parts:

http://www.ivytech.edu

The last part of the web page’s address is called the domain. This tells you what kind of entity the website belongs to. Some common examples of domains are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the domain is:</th>
<th>Then the website can belong to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.com or .net</td>
<td>Anyone (a business, organization, or individual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.edu</td>
<td>A college or university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.gov</td>
<td>A government organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.org</td>
<td>A non-profit organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.mil</td>
<td>The military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with other sources, information found on websites is not always accurate. Critically evaluate all websites before using, especially those ending in .com. For more information on evaluating websites, see the library handout Evaluating Websites, available on the Library website under Help.
**Advanced Search Options**

Many search engines offer an **Advanced** or **Options** link near the search box. Click the link, and you can make your search more specific so that you find fewer but more useful webpages.

Advanced searches will often allow you to limit the results of your search to web pages that have been updated recently, have certain domains or are written in specific languages.

For example, Google’s Advanced Search (see below) will allow you to limit your search to web pages that are written in English, have been updated in the past month, and are in the domain of a government organization (.gov). Access Google’s Advanced Search by clicking Settings in the bottom right corner of a Google search page.

![Google Advanced Search](image)

**Find pages with...**
- **all these words:** scholarship
- **this exact word or phrase:**
- **any of these words:** college OR university OR "higher education"
- **none of these words:**
- **numbers ranging from:**

**Then narrow your results by...**
- **language:** English
- **region:** any region
- **last update:** anytime
- **site or domain:** .gov
- **terms appearing:** anywhere in the page
- **SafeSearch:** Show most relevant results
- **file type:** any format
- **usage rights:** not filtered by license

Use the options here to narrow your results by language, format, and domain.

Insert keywords here