

Tips for Searching the Internet

“The Internet can be a researcher’s dream come true. By browsing the Internet, much as you would browse the shelves of a library, you can access information on seemingly limitless topics. In addition, web-based catalogs are available in many libraries to assist researchers in locating printed books, journals, government documents, and other materials.

Possibly the biggest obstacle facing researchers on the Internet is how to effectively access the vast amount of information available with the simple click of the mouse... A few simple guidelines can make conducting research more manageable, reliable, and fun” (Florida Center for Instructional Technology, 2009, para. 1).

Tips for Searching the Internet

- Make sure you check your spelling.
- Use Quotation Marks.
 - Put quotes around words to locate a specific phrase.
- Make your search narrower.
 - Be more specific with the vocabulary (e.g. “pizza” instead of “food”).
 - Add other word(s) with “and.”
 - Use the advanced search page.
- Make your search more general.
 - Broaden your vocabulary.
 - Delete words that are not important.
- If are not pleased with your results, use alternate words.
- Use alternate search engines. Each one will give you different results.

(Cohen, 2012)

References:

Cohen, L. (2012). *Best Bet Search Tips*. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from <http://www.internettutorials.net/best-bet-search.asp>

Florida Center for Instructional Technology. (2009). *The Internet: Research Tools*. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from <http://fcit.usf.edu/internet/chap5/chap5.htm>