

Basic Internet Research

Searching the Web involves utilizing intermediate search tools- subject directories, search engines and meta-search engines, and specialized databases (deep web).

Subject directories group web pages by broad topic or category. Yahoo and Librarians' Index are examples of Web directories. Commercial directories, such as Yahoo, are aimed toward the general public and are competing for user traffic. Academic directories, such as Librarians' Index, are often created and maintained by subject experts to support the needs of researchers. It may be helpful to use directories to begin research. Subject organization can help pinpoint sites relevant to research.

Search Engines are similar to indexes and send out "spiders" (computer programs) that filter through the Web, seeking sites that relate to specific topics. Most directories include a search engine to query the directory service. Meta search engines utilize several search engines at once. Examples are Dogpile.com and Metacrawler.com. These are helpful when directories and regular search engines yield little results.

The **deep Web or invisible Web** is made up of dynamic pages (e.g., information is presented only when requested), non-textual formats (e.g., multimedia and software) and databases (e.g., commercial and subscription-based). The deep web is also referred to as the "invisible web," because these resources are invisible to spiders used by general search engines or directories such as Google and Yahoo. See links to invisible web directories at this Sawyer Library Web page (<http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/acad-dir.htm>)

Directory vs. Search Engine	Sawyer Library Research Guides:
<p>Use a Directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When you have a broad topic or research idea• When you seek a list of Web sites covering your topic and recommended and annotated by experts <p>Use a Search Engine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When you have a narrow topic• When you want to locate a specific piece of information• When you want to retrieve a large number of documents• When you seek particular types of documents (photos, languages, source locations, etc.)	<p>The Library carefully reviews and selects the information it acquires including subscription databases. Information sources are chosen for their quality and for their ability to support the curriculum. Some recommended quality Web resources are linked from the following Sawyer Library locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Help and Research Guides</u> (http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/guidlst.htm): Web pages which identify and annotate Web sites related to the specific guide topic.• <u>Full Text Web Collections</u> (http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/webcollect.htm) a Web page that identifies academic sources with full text collections.• <u>Recommended Academic Subject Directories</u> (http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/acad-dir.htm): a Web page that identifies subject directories with links to appropriate subject and topic-oriented Internet sites reviewed by librarians or other experts.