

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Internet Searching Tools

There are three different types of tools to search the Internet:

Subject Directories, such as:

- Librarian's Index to the Internet
- The Google Directory (different from a regular Google search)

Search Engines, such as:

- Google
- HotBot

Meta-search Engines, such as:

- MetaCrawler
- Dogpile

There are different reasons to use different types of search tools.

**Subject Directories** employ people to evaluate and select the contents of any site you might receive in your result list.

In a **Search Engine** database the information is collected by computer programs (not humans). These programs are called spiders or robots.

**Meta-search Engines** will search several search engines all at once. If you aren't getting very many results, a **Meta-search Engine** might be of help.

## Strategies for improving your searches

Internet search tools support powerful searching options. But not all search engines use the same set of rules. The best rule to remember is that each search tool has its own help screen to describe what techniques can be used to improve your searches.

In Google some of the operators that are useful when searching are:

- + putting the plus sign before each words will require that all of the words will be found in your search results  
(example: +preschool +education)
- putting the minus sign before a word in your search statement means you do not want that word to appear in your search results  
(example: +dolphin -football)
- " " putting quotes around two or more words tells the search engine to keep those words together  
(example: "santa cruz" or "solar energy")

# Searching for Quality vs. Quantity: Using the Internet Wisely

## About Searching

Most search tools (like Google for the Internet or EBSCOhost database for magazines) use the following features:

- **Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)**
  - ✓ AND= Education *AND* technology-- finds articles that have both terms
  - ✓ OR=Education *OR* technology-- finds articles that have one or both terms
  - ✓ NOT=Education *NOT* technology-- finds articles that have education but not technology
- **Phrase searching**
  - ✓ Place quotation marks around your search words.
    - For example: "santa cruz", "united states" or "learning disabilities"; this search would return results with these words together
- **Truncation**
  - ✓ Several databases use the \* (asterisk) to signify truncation.
    - For example: child\*  
retrieves: child, child's, childhood, children, children's, childish

If you are searching in Google for information about **surfing in Santa Cruz**, you would probably get more exacting results if you wrote your search like this:

**"santa cruz" AND surf\*** (The quotation marks keep santa and cruz together, adding AND means all of the resulting sites will have both terms, and truncating surfing will pick up the terms surf, surfs, surfer, surfer's, and surfing.)

Refine the following search phrases using the above features.

1. Beaches in San Francisco \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sea otters of the Monterey Bay \_\_\_\_\_

3. Latin American music \_\_\_\_\_

4. Now make up a search of your own that uses **Boolean operators, phrase searching** and **truncation**.

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