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# Web Search Tools

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## Keyword Search Engines

Search engines, such as **Google**, allow you to search for information primarily by keyword, that is, any word or words you specify. A search engine roams the Web searching for matches to your words in maybe the full text of Web sites, the title page, URL, first heading, HTML tags, or some other criteria. Results are arranged often by relevancy or some other criteria and are listed with a hotlink to Web sites matching keyword(s), the title the document's author assigned, and the URL for the Web site. Search engine examples follow.

- [Gigablast](http://gigablast.com) <http://gigablast.com>
- [Google](http://www.google.com) <http://www.google.com>
- [HotBot](http://hotbot.lycos.com) <http://hotbot.lycos.com>
- [Lycos](http://www.lycos.com) <http://www.lycos.com>
- [MSN Web Search](http://www.msn.com) <http://www.msn.com>

## Subject Directories

Subject directories available on the Internet through sites like **Yahoo!** are organized into topic lists. They allow you to choose a major topic and then to narrow it down by choosing from lists of sub-topics. As you make choices, the scope of your subject will become more focused. For this reason, subject directories are very helpful when you are trying to pick a subject to research. A subject directory is a good resource to recommend to your students when they are not sure what topic they want to use for their next assignment. The list of sub-topics is hypertext. This means you can click on one of the items in the list and Internet Explorer will take you right to that site. Here are some examples of subject directories.

- [BizWeb](http://www.bizweb.com) <http://www.bizweb.com>
- [Google's Directory](http://www.google.com/dirhp) <http://www.google.com/dirhp>
- [Infomine](http://infomine.ucr.edu) <http://infomine.ucr.edu>
- [Internet Public Library](http://www.ipl.org) <http://www.ipl.org>
- [Librarians' Index to the Internet](http://lii.org) <http://lii.org>
- [LookSmart](http://www.looksmart.com) <http://www.looksmart.com>
- [Open Directory Project \(DMoz\)](http://www.dmoz.org) <http://www.dmoz.org>
- [Starting Point](http://www.stpt.com) <http://www.stpt.com>
- [What You Need to Know About](http://www.miningco.com) <http://www.miningco.com>
- [Yahoo!](http://www.yahoo.com) <http://www.yahoo.com>
- [YellowPages](http://www.yellowpages.com) <http://www.yellowpages.com>

## Multi-Engine (or Metasearchers) Searchers

Metasearchers search more than one search engine at a time. Using a metasearcher, such as **Dogpile** or **Metacrawler** is faster than searching each individual engine one by one. However, the trade-off for increased speed is that you will lose most of the specificity of searching an individual search engine. Each search engine (e.g., Google, Lycos) uses special ways to limit your search, such as limiting to a specific language or using Boolean searching, may be lost in the translation from the metasearcher to the individual engines it runs your search on.

- [Dogpile](http://www.dogpile.com) <http://www.dogpile.com>
- [Mamma](http://www.mamma.com) <http://www.mamma.com>
- [Metacrawler](http://www.metacrawler.com/index.html) <http://www.metacrawler.com/index.html>
- [Search.com](http://www.search.com) <http://www.search.com>
- [Webfile](http://www.thebighub.com) <http://www.thebighub.com>

## Net/Web Review Sites

The following Web sites offer evaluative reviews of Web sites, similar to book reviews, where users can find out about a site's content, organization, validity, relevancy, and other evaluative information.

- [Digital Librarian](http://www.digital-librarian.com) <http://www.digital-librarian.com>  
A librarian's choice of the best of the Web.
- [Jump City](http://www.jumpcity.com/start.shtml) <http://www.jumpcity.com/start.shtml>  
Has smaller collection of Web site reviews.

## Search Engine & Subject Directory Review Sites

The following Web sites offer evaluative reviews of search engines, subject directories, and meta-searchers and other information.

- [Search Engine Showdown](http://www.searchengineshowdown.com) <http://www.searchengineshowdown.com>  
An excellent site that provides searching tips and reviews all kinds of search tools. Also provides the latest news updates on search tools.
- [Search Engine Watch](http://searchenginewatch.com) <http://searchenginewatch.com>  
Comprehensive site on searching methods, reviews, and news.
- [Best Search Engines Quick Guide](http://www.infopeople.org/search/guide.html) <http://www.infopeople.org/search/guide.html>  
Table of information on the reviewer's choice of the top search engines.
- [Best Search Tools Chart](http://www.infopeople.org/search/chart.html) <http://www.infopeople.org/search/chart.html>  
Table of information on many search tools.