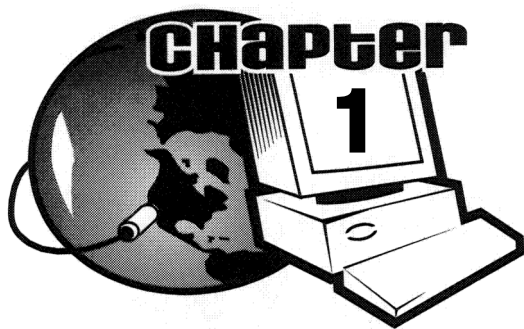


Table of contents

Chapter one: Learning the basics	5
Search engine record – 1	9
Search engine practice – 1	10
Search engines – 2	12
Search engine practice – 2	13
Refining searches	15
Domain name suffixes	16
Chapter two: Cyber lessons	17
Newspapers around the world	25
Ancient art and history	27
The solar system	29
Higher education	30
Courses and careers	32
Interactive maths sites	33
Inventors and their inventions	34
Face the facts	35
Biome research	36
Interactive projects	37
World adventures: A cyber quest	39
Chapter three: Virtual excursions	41
Webcams	44
The ultimate virtual tour	45
Chapter four: Creating a website	49
Viewing school websites	52
Chapter five: Creating presentations	53
Planning your presentation	54
Delivering your presentation	57
Evaluating your presentation	58
Answers	59





Learning the basics

Teacher information

Many teachers are hesitant to use the Internet or World Wide Web or various software programs in their classrooms because they feel ill prepared to handle this exciting form of learning. They have no time to take classes and many tutorial books about cyberspace are difficult to understand and lack a 'hands-on' experience. However, if a computer is handy, there is an easy way to gain confidence and training in Internet and online skills. Actually, just about anything a person would want to learn how to do is readily available online.

Finding informative tutorial sites is very easy. If you can work with a search engine, you have access to many sites that are waiting to teach you something you are interested in learning. First, you need to find an appropriate search engine and there are hundreds from which to choose.

If you are new to the concept of search engines, there is a Website called the Spider's apprentice at <www.monash.com/spidap.html>, which offers a good and easy-to-follow tutorial on how to understand, select and use search engines. This site is not only helpful for teachers, it is easy and comfortable for the classroom, too.

Once you have visited the Spider's apprentice and learned about search engines, then you are ready for the next step, which is to enjoy the varied and unique functions of the search engine. Basically, a search engine will search the entire Web to find what you are looking for, whether it is a random search just exploring the Web or a specific search within a website itself. Search engines go after what you want based on how you word your request. Just like any research system, the broader the search, the more numerous the possibilities. As the search becomes more limited, so do the number of matches.

A search engine is simply a device that responds by hunting for your request of information. Using a subject search frame, type a subject of interest and the search engine will look for it on the Internet. Yahoo! at <www.yahoo.com.au> is a very popular search engine that is fast and efficient and even offers searches in languages like Spanish, Italian, German, French and a few others. AltaVista at <www.altavista.com.au> is fast and generally will generate numerous search options on a request. Google at <www.google.com.au> has a vast search base, various search types and a worldwide or Australia site search. Actually, there are so many search engines that even running a simple request for search engines using the HotBot search engine at <www.hotbot.com> results in a listing of even more search engines including one called Beaucoup.

Found at website address <www.beaucoup.com>, the search engine Beaucoup has at least 15 categories of other search engines that have even more search engines within them. These other search engines are specifically geared to find geographical sites, computer sites, health sites, media sites, employment sites and even a potpourri of different types of search engines that hunt in categories that will find fun and unique sites online.

Beaucoup's homepage is worth visiting and exploring since the research options for just about any category of interest are located there.

Another valuable website browser is the Education network Australia site EdNA. Found at www.edna.edu.au/edna/browse/0,sne,20501 this section of the site searches based on the key learning areas for relevant online information and resources.

Another multisearch option engine is called Big search engine index. With over 630 engines from almost 200 countries, this is a site that has the options available to find just about anything you would want to find. Located at www.search-engine-index.co.uk this large search engine has typical categories like business search, music search, regional search etc., but it also has things like acronym lookup and net lingo for teachers and students to use when trying to find information for online work or other related projects. Big Search Engine Index continues to expand monthly and reflects the growing number of search engines in cyberspace.

Also, search engines that activate other search engines to find the same information are abundant on the Internet. A popular search engine with that function is called Dogpile, and it is fast and very thorough. Found at www.dogpile.com, this search engine will take your request for information and activate ten or twelve or more engines to search for the same information. So, if you submit a request for something related to your lesson, you will be able to review at least ten or more other search engines with the one request. This type of search engine saves you the time of manually finding the ten search engines and requesting the same search on each one.

Search engines can be used by all ages, but not all ages are prepared for the possible problems that exist on a surfing search of the World Wide Web. There are sites that are inappropriate and may inadvertently drop into a middle school student's search simply by the nature of the wording of the search. A student searching for 'love poetry' may bump into sites that are inappropriate for their age. However, search engines that are protective of the younger student do exist. Filters that eliminate the risk of students being confronted with material that could be embarrassing and upsetting are available.

There are search engines, such as Yahoo! (labelled as a navigational guide), that offer a specific section for kids. Yahoooligans! which is geared for kids and is intent on being safe for them to use independently, is found at www.yahoooligans.com. This website offers sections like around the world, arts & entertainment, computers & games, school bell, science & nature, sports & recreation, plus other interesting areas like buzz index, which keep current topics of interest for the student in the middle and primary years. It is a search engine for the younger-aged student and it connects to safe sites free of adult content.

Another website that offers searching and tools specifically geared for the school students is kids.net.au located at www.kids.net.au. This site allows students friendly searches to country-specific or worldwide based. Several categories, such as arts, games,

school time, computers, health and your family, are provided on the homepage. The search tool can also be used as an online dictionary or thesaurus. Primary and middle school students will feel comfortable working the Web with this site and its many features.

A site that offers search tools, a controlled chat, free email, an ezine (online magazine), cyber activities and more is called Zeeks.com. Once you access it at <www.zeeks.com>, you will see a site that is very lively and attractive. This site is developed by a company in Canada and its purpose is to maintain a child-safe site. The site contains some advertising, but it is certainly appropriate for children. This site also has fictional characters, Nikki, Andy, Tamara, Matt and Margo, who offer site suggestions, skills training and advice about all sorts of subjects – all suited for the young visitor.

SearchAbility is a site that is adaptable for younger students and also for adults. Located at <www.searchability.com>, this website has a sidebar (a column to the side of the main page) with search engine sections designated by category. For example, there are links to specialised search engines by alphabetical listing and a link to guides for search engines that focus on popular topics. Also, there is a link to guides that focus on academic search engines, a link that opens to guides for regional searches, plus links for metasearches (like Dogpile.com) and an explanation of Boolean searches.

What makes this a valuable site for children is the Guide to search engines for children. It offers interesting websites that are geared for children and are safe for their searching. Once on that site, each search engine for children like Little-red-schoolhouse library, The Search page or Kids search tools has an explanation of the type of search engine it is, its function and the subjects covered. The SearchAbility site offers an explanation of the audience for whom the sites are useful, which makes it easy to match an age group to the appropriate search engine.

Also, TekMom found at <www.tekmom.com> is another example of a safe site developed by someone who is familiar with the problems on the Internet for the younger student. The webmaster (the person who designed and built the website) is a primary school computer teacher and she is also a mother. She explains on her homepage that she wanted a safe site for kids. She developed such a site with links to search engines that are age appropriate and she also added sections like buzz words and resources for teachers. While the site is American based it is suitable for Australian students and a good solid site for research. It is an attractive and inviting site, too.

Ask Jeeves! at <www.ask.com> presents a website that is a search engine in an encyclopedic format. An effective search engine on its own, this search engine has a link called Ask Jeeves for kids! which opens to a site that is specifically set up for the younger student. It is a safe search for kids and it also offers games, news resources and study tools. Safe, quick and effective, this is a good site for high school students.

There are activity sheets included in this chapter for both beginner and advanced students to try their hand at using various search engines. A number of search engines' websites and URLs are provided followed by questions accompanying each step of their search.

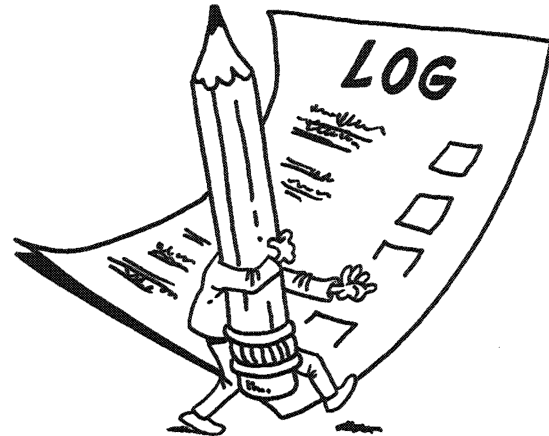
The refining searches activity helps student better understand the importance of what they choose to type into the search frame and how it affects their results.

The domain name suffixes activity requires students to match various domain names with the appropriate suffixes. Knowing the uses of these suffixes is helpful when you can remember the name of a company, organisation etc., but cannot remember the entire URL.

Search engine record - 1



Once you begin to search the web, it will be helpful for you to keep track of where you have been in your search engine work. Keeping a record of your searching is a worthwhile task since it enables you to track your cyber journey and record what a particular search engine can accomplish. Keeping search engine records and logs of what you were looking for and what you found helps build online search engine confidence. Plus you will have a copy of your online work that your teacher can monitor and assess.



Online search log

Working with a few of the search engines listed below, fill in the following record and log of your search engine work. Your teacher will give you the subject or you may choose the subjects you wish to search for. Record your answers clearly and legibly so that you can use this information in your log. Once you return to this log, you will be unable to find a website if the URL (the address of it) is impossible to read.

Choose two of the search engines to complete the following activity.

Yahooligans <www.yahooligans.com>

Kids.Net.Au <www.kids.net.au>

Zeeks.com <www.zeeks.com>

SearchAbility <www.searchability.com/children.htm>
(and choose a search engine on that page)

TekMom <www.tekmom.com>

Ask Jeeves! <www.ask.com>

Google <www.google.com.au>

