Web & Information Literacy
Searching & Evaluating Information
Web Tools

What is the Internet
- Inter - Between
- Net - Networks
  - a group of computers which are interconnected together to exchange information
  - The Internet is a network that connects computer networks in remote locations together.
- Features
  - Global
  - No one company, institution, government, person owns it
  - Can link many different ways because of the way it was designed
  - Provides for decentralized & distributed computing

Are Internet & Web the same?
- Nope.
  - The Internet consists of computers, data, protocol that are connected through satellites, cables, wires, and wireless transmitters.
  - The Web is a method of accessing information stored on computers throughout the Internet
  - Not everything connected to the Internet is accessible via the Web
    - Some online gaming such as World of Warcraft
    - Some music downloads - iTunes software
    - File transfers
    - Businesses & government may have their own software for accessing information

Web Terms
- Web browser – presents web coded pages stored on the Internet.
- Web address or URL (Uniform Resource Locator) – allow direct access of a web page.
- Links (hyperlinks) – allow browsing from one page to another.
- HTML (HyperText Markup Language) - used to create web pages
- Web page - one document on the web
- Web site - group of interconnected web pages

Finding Information
- Search Engines
  - Input search terms to find info
  - Use advance features to narrow search
  - Use specialized indexes
- Deep Web Search
  - Database search that are not searchable by search engines
  - Examples:
    - Periodical Indexes
    - EBSCO
    - Book Searches
    - Library ebooks

Search Strategies
- Consider including in search
  - Who
  - What
  - When
  - Where
  - Why
  - How
- Use synonyms
  - Example: college or university
- Use quotes to indicate a phrase
### Advanced Search

- Use advanced search feature to refine searches
  - File Type (web page, Adobe Acrobat, graphic)
  - Date
  - Domain
  - Language
- Three basic Boolean operands can be used
  - AND
  - OR
  - NOT

### Boolean Operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Effect on search</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Narrows search</td>
<td>dogs AND cats both words must be on page</td>
<td>dogs cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Expands search</td>
<td>dogs OR cats One or the other or both</td>
<td>dogs cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not</td>
<td>Narrows search</td>
<td>dogs NOT cats Dogs but no cats on it</td>
<td>dogs cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not</td>
<td>boolean, but helps Quote “ ”</td>
<td>Further narrows search &quot;cats and dogs&quot; must be the exact phrase</td>
<td>cats and dogs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Narrow by Domains

- High Level Domain (end part of a domain name)
  - .net - network
  - .com – commercial
  - .edu - educational (usually colleges & universities)
  - .gov – government
  - .org - non-profit organization
  - .k12 - kindergarten through12th grade
  - .mil – military
- Specific domain - include full domain name
- Examples:
  - hawaii.edu
  - irs.gov
  - microsoft.com
  - fafsa.ed.gov

### Using the Deep Web

- Not everything on the web is listed in search engines.
- The contents of some databases are not listed in search engines, so you need to know where to find the databases.
  - Library catalogs
  - Reference indexes
  - Periodical indexes (such as EBSCO)
  - ebooks such as the library
  - Other searchable databases

### Evaluating Web sites

#### Determining Validity

- Just because it’s published on the Web does not mean it is accurate
- Anyone can publish anything on the Web
  - no controls or overall publisher who evaluates and confirms content
- Evaluate
  - Sources
  - Content
  - How current the item is in relation to topic
Evaluating Sources

- Who is publishing the information?
  - Author
    - Why is the author an authority?
    - What credentials do they have?
  - Publisher
    - Is the company or organization reputable?
    - What other information is available about publisher?
    - What is the high level domain?

Example

- Example of evaluation for my lesson on operating systems:
  - Author: Vanessa Cole
    - Credentials:
      - Instructor of Information Computer Science
      - over 30 years computer experience.
      - expertise and training to be an authority in this area.
  - Publisher: Windward Community College
    - reputable educational institute.
    - .edu domain

Evaluating Content & Date

- Is information accurate and verifiable through other sources?
- Is a bibliography offered or are references cited?
- Is the content opinion or fact?
- Is the purpose clearly stated?
- How current is the information?
  - 2 year old article about computers is outdated
  - 10 year old article about ancient history is probably not outdated.

Example:

- Example of evaluation for my lesson on operating systems:
  - Content: The information is clearly stated and is factual which can be verified through other sources. It does not contain a bibliography, but the author has the authority to write on this subject.
  - Date: The content of this website is published within the past two years and is current.

Citing References

- When using your research to write a paper you must ALWAYS cite your references.
- See MLA or APA style guides for the referencing style you need to use.
- Common items needed for reference
  - Author
    - All content has an author - if no individual author is listed, then a corporate/organization author should be listed.
  - Title
  - Publisher
  - Date of publication
  - If web page – web address and date accessed

Fair Use

- Be sure quotes are indicated and ALWAYS cite your references.
- Fair use: Freely quote for educational purposes 10% of the full work or 1,000 words whichever is LESS.
  - A web page of 100 words - you can quote only 10 words.
  - If it is of 100,000 words you can quote only up to 1,000 words.
  - If you are quoting more than that, by law you should get permission from the author or publisher.
Web tools: Organizing Research

- bookmarks (favorites)
  - Create folder
  - Add all related links to folder
- RSS feeds bring the current news to you.
  - Subscribe by clicking on RSS icon
  - Browser checks for updates
- Tabbed browsing
  - Keep open multiple pages
  - Quick switching between pages
  - Some browsers can bookmark & open all

Training Lessons

- Do the following library tutorials on deep web search tools
  - Ebsco tutorial
    - Access to Ebsco - Logon with your UH Username & password
  - Ebrary Tutorial
    - Access to ebrary
- Search Google advanced search tutorials. Each of these contain several videos.
  - Checking your facts
  - Intro to Power Searching
  - Interpreting Results
  - Advanced Techniques