You can use `--referer` with the `curl` command to specify the referer string as follows:

```
$ curl --referer Referer_URL target_URL
```

For example:

```
$ curl --referer http://google.com http://slynux.org
```

Cookies with cURL

By using `curl` we can specify, as well as store, the cookies that are encountered during HTTP operations.

To specify cookies, use the `--cookie "COOKIES"` option.

Cookies should be provided as `name=value`. Multiple cookies should be delimited by a semicolon (`;`). For example:

```
$ curl http://example.com --cookie "user=slynux;pass=hack"
```

To specify a file to which the cookies encountered are to be stored, use the `--cookie-jar` option. For example:

```
$ curl URL --cookie-jar cookie_file
```

Setting a user agent string with cURL

Some web pages that check the user agent won't work if there is no user agent specified. You must have noticed that certain old websites work only on **Internet Explorer** (**IE**). If a different browser is used, it will show a message that it will work only on IE. This is because the website checks for a user agent. You can set the user agent with `curl`.

Using cURL it can be set using --user-agent or -A as follows:

```
$ curl URL --user-agent "Mozilla/5.0"
```

Additional headers can be passed with cURL. Use `-H "Header"` to pass multiple additional headers. For example:

```
$ curl -H "Host: www.slynux.org" -H "Accept-language: en" URL
```

> There are many different user agent strings across multiple browsers and crawlers on the web. You can find a list of some of them at `http://www.useragentstring.com/pages/useragentstring.php`.

Specifying a bandwidth limit on cURL

When the available bandwidth is limited and multiple users are sharing the Internet, in order to share bandwidth smoothly, we can limit the download rate to a specified limit in `curl` by using the `--limit-rate` option, as follows:

```
$ curl URL --limit-rate 20k
```

In this command, `k` (kilobyte) specifies the download rate limit. You can also use `m` for megabyte.

Specifying the maximum download size

The maximum download file size for cURL can be specified by using the `-max-filesize` option as follows:

```
$ curl URL --max-filesize bytes
```

It will return a non-zero exit code if the file size exceeds. It will return zero if it succeeds.

Authenticating with cURL

HTTP authentication or FTP authentication can be done by using cURL with the `-u` argument.

The username and password can be specified by using `-u username:password`. It is possible to not provide a password in such a way that it will prompt for the password while executing. For example:

```
$ curl -u user:pass http://test_auth.com
```

If you prefer to be prompted for the password, you can do that by using only `-u username`.

```
$ curl -u user http://test_auth.com
```

Printing response headers excluding the data

It is useful to print only response headers to apply many checks or statistics. For example, to check whether a page is reachable or not, we don't need to download the entire page contents; just reading the HTTP response header can be used to identify whether a page is available or not.

An example use case for checking the HTTP header, is to check the file size before downloading. We can check the `Content-length` parameter in the HTTP header to find out the length of a file before downloading. Also, several useful parameters can be retrieved from the header. The `Last-Modified` parameter enables us to know the last modification time for the remote file.