Types of Search Engines

A search engine allows users to extract requested information from the huge database of resources available on the Internet. Search engines can be classifed into three categories.

1. **Crawler-Based Search Engines**

Crawler-based search engines create their listings automatically by using a special program known as ‘a crawler’ to find new and updated content. Every time a web crawler finds a new web site through a link it scans and passes its content. Search engines process and store information by identifing the words and expressions that best describe the page in an index to be retrived later whe a user enters a query. Search engines compare the search string with the indexing pages from the databse to provide the content that will best answer the user’s query. Ther results are ordered from most relevant to least relevant. For this ranking different search engines use different algorithms to calcualte that and constantly evolve them.

1. **Human-Powered Directories**

Human-powered directories depend on human editors to compile their listingss. This means that they only show results for content that is added manually. Yahoo! Directory, Open Directory and LookSmart can serve as good examples of web

directories. However, automated search engines like Google, have nearly wiped out

those human-based directories out of the web.

1. **Meta-Search Engines**

A meta-serch engine sends user’s queries to several other search engines and compiles top results from each into one overall list. After redundancy removal, these results are processed, ranked and presented to the user. Dogpile, MetaCrawler, and SavvySearch are a few examples of such meta-search engines.