ILT 101
INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

Session 8: INTERNET SEARCH TOOLS

SESSION OBJECTIVES

At the end of the session, students would be able to:

- Identify and describe the various Internet search tools

- Know how the various Internet search tool functions

Searching on the Internet

- Searching on the Internet can be an exciting experience when one knows how/which tool to use.

- There are various tools available online for searching/retrieving academic information.

- However, the most commonly used are: search engines, meta search engines, web directories/subject gateways and databases

Search engine

- An information retrieval system designed to help find information stored on a computer system (often the World Wide Web).

- Search engines are composed of:

-programs ("spiders" or "robots") to collect information;

-programs to index this information; and,

-create database of web sites (sources, regularly updated)

- Search engines have search interface (search bar)

- Eg, Google, Yahoo, Lycos, Alltheweb, Ask, Bing, etc

Meta-search engine

- Metasearch engines query several search engines at a time and combine the result.

- Example: Yippy generates an ordered list based on comparative ranking. This "metasearch" approach helps raise the best results to the top and push search engine spam to the bottom (http://www.yippy.com)

WEB DIRECTORIES/ PORTAL (SUBJECT GATEWAYS)

Subject directories collect and categorize Internet resources (websites and Internet publications of particular interest) into several organized categories or disciplines.

A useful guide to start with as it often provides structured overviews of resources.

Examples: Intute, Google Directory, BUBL, Infomine, DMOZ, Librarians' Internet Index (LII), WWW Virtual Library, and Pinakes.

Database

- A collection of records structured in such a way to permit orderly retrieval, e.g. for research, study, or administration

- It contains records with defined fields such as title, author, date, URL, etc

Types of databases

- Bibliographic databases,
- Full-text databases,
- Numeric databases,
- Image databases,
- Audio/Video databases,
- Mixed databases..

Academic databases

- Is a universal index of periodical literature covering basic research from all fields of knowledge.

- Examples of academic databases of scholarly journals and academic series
    - **Pubmed Central http://pubmedcentral.nih.gov**
    - **JSTOR http://jstor.org**
    - **HINARI (Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative) http://www.who.int/hinari/en**
    - **AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture**
    - **Ebsco Host**
    - **Emerald http://www.emerald.com/insight**

Reading List

A. Entsua-Mensah, C (Ed.)(2015). *Information literacy skills: A course book* (Revised Edition). Cape Coast: Library Publication Committee.

B. Apte, S.D. (2015). *Advanced digital signal processing*. New Delhi: Wiley India Private Limited.

C. Eisenberg,M.B., Lowe, C.A. & Spitzer, K.L.(2008). *Information literacy: An essential skills for the information age*. Ohio: Linworth Books