

Savvy Internet Searcher: Summary

Effective search strategies to meet the varied information needs by these three individuals



Planning your search strategy

Do You Know?

Many people tend to adopt a “trial and error” approach when searching on the Internet. Do you think this is effective way?

Do You Know?

Without good search strategies, you tend to experience:

- disappointing search results – too many irrelevant results
- overwhelming search results – in the millions (impossible to go through all of them)

Do You Know?

A well-designed search strategy:

- saves you time
- helps you find relevant information
- means getting information from a variety of sources

Tips

Understanding your research topic and possible sources help you determine what you need to search for

Synonyms include:

- acronyms or abbreviations (E.g. United Nations, UN)
- alternative spellings (E.g. color, colour)
- technical terms (E.g. tsunami, seismic wave)
- foreign terms (E.g. “Bandar Aceh”, “Banda” and “Acheh” in different sources)

Using authoritative and credible online resources provided by the library, such as eDatabases and online news articles, is recommended as these resources have been reviewed rigorously by editors and professionals

Identify the types of information resources such as:

- Singapore-related content
- Academic resources
- Repository sites
- Images
- Deep Web & Portal

Online Resources

eResources

<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/index.aspx>

For first time users, you can browse the database coverage using the ‘By Subjects’

- Arts
- Business
- Science and Technology
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Southeast Asia

Institutional Repository Databases

Digital Repository – Nanyang Technological University
<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Library/collections/Pages/DRNTU.aspx>

The Directory of Open Access Repositories - *OpenDOAR*
<http://www.opendoar.org/>

Institutional Repositories: SPARC Europe
<http://sparceurope.org/repositories/>

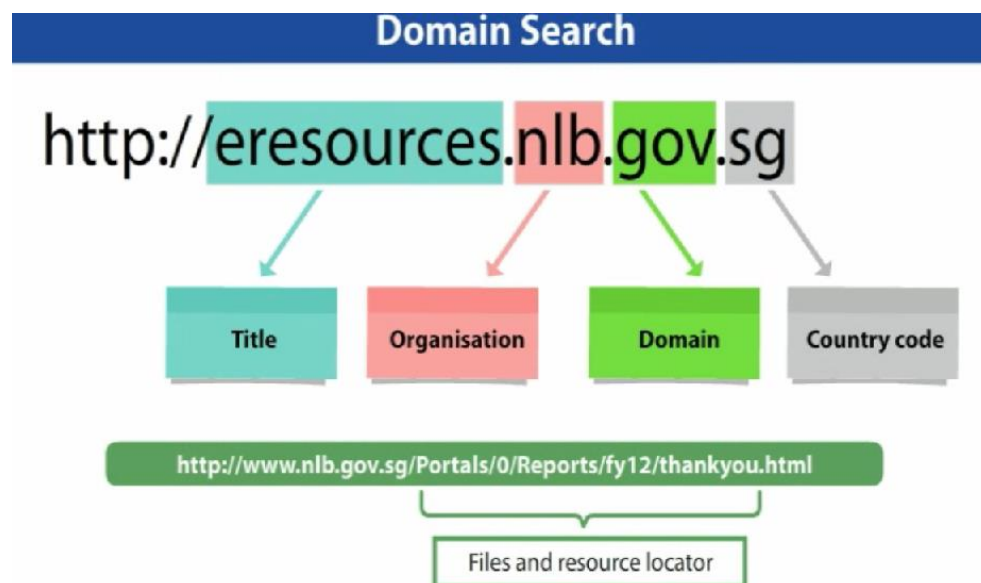
The University of Arizona
<http://arizona.openrepository.com>

Creative Commons Licence

An example of production under this licence include those which are accessible via flickr site at <https://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>

Dissecting the Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

Here's how you can breakdown the URL into specific areas.



Search Strategies

Search strategy for Creative Commons images

Search textbox: 'creativecommons.org' 'tiramisu image'

Search strategies for health pandemics

Search textbox: 'Health pandemics forecasts' OR predictions

'Health pandemics' OR 'epidemics forecasts' OR predictions

Health pandemics database OR archive OR collection OR links

Health pandemics archive OR repository

Search Strategies for digits such as list of years

- Virus outbreaks 1900 ... 2015
- Health pandemics 1900 – 2015
- Health epidemics year 2001 2002 2003 2004
- Natural disasters 1900 – 2015

Search Strategies

In this search strategy, Judy does not want to include research on dissemination of information via twitter. She is also not interested in the studies on ethnic groups. Thus, her search should include these filters.

- Health pandemic AND literature review NOT twitter NOT ethnic

Useful Tips:

- Type in words that you think may be used in the research article
- Spend some quality time to look at the results lists
- Add in new keywords from the existing literature or remove those which you do not want to appear in your results lists

Search Strategies for market research analysis

- Coffee drinking China market reports OR findings
- Coffee drinking China market reports OR findings OR database
- Coffee drinking China market database NOT abstract
- Coffee consumption China consumer database NOT abstract

Using the Boolean Operators effectively		
	How do I broaden a search?	Use the Boolean “OR” operator to expand your search. This operator enables you to find articles which have one or all of the keywords used. Use synonyms and related terms as your keywords. Example: tsunami OR earthquake
	How do I narrow a search?	Use the Boolean “NOT” operator to narrow your search. This operator excludes the chosen keyword. Example: tsunami NOT earthquake Some search engines allow you to use the minus sign (-) in place of the “NOT” operator. Example: tsunami –earthquake
	How do I search for words in a phrase	Phrase searching helps you to find words in a specified order by using the double inverted commas (“ ”).