

LIB3 - Information Competency

Assignment 5 - Internet Subject Directories and Search Engines

Purpose

- To gain knowledge of the structure and syntax of different Internet resources.
- To acquire evaluation skills for Internet resources.

Instruction

Take time to read the questions and the instructions within each question and submit your answer accordingly. To perform a keyword search, type in the search term (s) in the search box and hit **Enter** or click on **Search**. The search box is usually located next to the Search button. Search buttons may have different names such as **Find**, or **Submit**, or **Go Get It** depending on the website you are searching.

I. Subject Directories

Academic Subject Directories

Go to the **Librarians' Index to the Internet** at <http://www.lii.org> and search for a list of Asian art museums Web sites. You will perform two search modes as follow:

- a. Subject browsing search - Follow the subject tree path starting with the broadest main heading, then click down to all the subdivisions to get to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco Web site.
 - How many Web sites are listed from the search result?
 - List the URL of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco Web site.
- b. Keyword search -
 - List the keyword (s) you used for this search, and any modification of your search terms.
 - How many Web sites are listed from the search result?
 - List one relevant Web site including the URL and the title of the Web site.

c. Evaluation - Evaluate the annotations for this Web site (its clarity and its usefulness).

Commercial Subject Directory

Go to Yahoo at <http://www.yahoo.com> and search for a list of colleges and universities Web sites in the United States. You will perform two search modes as follow:

- a. Subject browsing search - Follow the subject tree path starting with the broadest main heading, then click down to all the subdivisions to get to the **Institute of Amerian Indian Arts** Web site. Hint: There are at least six subdivisions to go through before you get to the Web site. Yahoo makes it easy to follow the thread: at each subdivision page, you will see at the top of the page your step-by-step path down the subject tree.
- List all the subdivision names that you have clicked to get to **Institute of Amerian Indian Arts** Web site.

b.Keyword search - Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.

- Compare the two search modes (i.e. their speed and ease of use).

II. Search Engines

A. Single Search Engines

Use the following search engines to find information on various topics.

Go.com at: <http://www.go.com>

1. Find poems about afghan women.
2. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
3. List one relevant Web site including the URL and the title.
4. Briefly scan the information given in this Web site and give your opinion about its credibility.

Google at <http://www.google.com>

1. Find the full-text of the poem titled "*The Ghosts of Afghanistan*".
2. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
3. How far did you have to scroll down to find the relevant Web page?
4. List one relevant Web site including the URL and the title.
5. Click on the link "Similar pages". What did you find following this link?

Altavista at <http://www.altavista.com>

1. Find the full-text of the speech "*I have a dream*" by M.L. King, Jr.
2. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
3. List the relevant Web site where the full-text speech "*I have a dream*" is found. Include the URL and the title of the Web site.
4. When was this Web site last updated?

Hot Bot at <http://www.hotbot.com>

1. Find the photos about the Great Depression taken by photographer Dorothea Lange.
2. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
3. List the relevant Web site where these photos are available. Include the URL and the title of the Web site.
4. When was this Web site last updated?

B. Meta Search Engines

Use the following meta search engines to find resources relating to the subject of **the Holocaust art theft**.

Metacrawler at <http://www.metacrawler.com>

1. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
2. Briefly scan through the first page of the results list. On the average, how many search engines are listed with each result entry? (Hint: Search engines are listed in between parentheses).
3. Which search engine appears often in most result entries?
4. List one relevant Web site including its URL and its title, and the search engines (these are listed in parentheses) that have found this Web site.

Dogpile at <http://www.dogpile.com>

1. Write down the exact search terms you typed in the search box and any modification of your search terms.
2. Briefly scan through the first page of the results list. On the average, how many search engines are listed with each result entry? (Hint: Search engines are listed in between parentheses).
3. Which search engine appears often in most result entries?
4. List one relevant Web site including its URL and its title, and the search engines (these are listed in parentheses) that have found this Web site.

Evaluation - Compare the results from the two meta search engines (i.e. different or same Web sites listed, the number of hits obtained, etc.)

III. Evaluation of Web sites

Visit and evaluate the three listed Web sites below by answering the following questions for **each** Web site.

- a. <http://www.al-islam.com>
- b. <http://www.martinlutherking.org>
- c. <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>

1. What is the title of the Web site?
2. Who are the Web site's sponsors and is there any information given about the sponsors? (Hint: Information about the sponsors is usually found by clicking on the link called **About us**. Is there such a link on this Web site?).
3. Is this Web site an educational, or informational, or propaganda, or a multi-purpose Web site?
4. Would you consider this Web site reliable and would you use it for research? Why?