

Overall, the best strategy for retrieving useful and relevant information is to use the same tactics that you would use in a library search. First, begin by analyzing your needs. What are you looking for? If the topic is very specific, search engines such as Google will likely result in hits that are relevant and useful. Alternatively, if you are looking for a broad topic, a subject guide such as Yahoo! would likely return the most successful results. Next, conceptualize your search question and then isolate the key-world in the question by eliminating words that are irrelevant.

You may find it useful to use a special purpose search tool that can most accurately meet your needs. Many search tools are designed with specific aims in mind and, as such, there is no best search tool. Rather, which search tool is best will depend on the kind of search you are doing. The following are a few examples of the different kinds of search tools available with specific aims.

- MedNet (<http://www.mednets.com/>) is devoted exclusively to medical information.
- Kids search Tools (<http://www.rcle.org/ksearch.html>) has been developed exclusively for children's searches, to be used by children.
- Search Engine Collosus (<http://www.searchenginecolossus.com/>) provides search engines focused on particular regions and countries.
- If you are not sure which search engine to use, or even what search engines are available, NoodleQuest (<http://www.noodletools.com/noodlequest>) is a Web site with an automated Web form that will generate a list of appropriate search engines based on both your Internet skills and your search needs.
- Searchability (<http://www.Searchability.com/>) and NeuvaNet (<http://www.noodletools.com/noodlequest/>) are Web sites that provide listings of specialty search engines with advice on how to choose the search engine most appropriate for your needs. For example, if you are looking for a few good hits fast, NeuvaNet recommends the use of Google (<https://www.google.com/>). Vivisimo (<https://vivisimo.com/form?form=Advanced>), and Ixquick (<https://ixquick.com/>).
- If you are looking for a general and broad academic subject and need to focus it, NeuvaNet recommends search guides such as:
 - Encarta Online (<http://www.encarta.msn.com/reference>)
 - Encyclopaedia Britannica (<http://www.britannica.com/>)
 - Northern Light (<http://www.northernlight.com/search.html>)
 - Librarian's Index to the Internet (<http://lii.org/>), or Informine (<https://informine.ucr.edu/>)
- If you are looking for biographical information, try using Lives (<https://amillionlives.com/>), Biography.com (<https://www.biography.com/search/>), or Biographical Dictionary (<http://www.biography.com/search/>), or Biographical Dictionary (<http://www.s9.com/biography/>).
- There is rapid progress being made in the cataloging and retrieval (through metadata) of graphic images that you can use to enhance a research presentation. Two of the largest collections of graphic images and pictures are available <https://ditto.com/> and <https://www.altsvista.com/sites/search/simage>.
- Sound and music files are also difficult to find due to problems in classification. Moodlogic (www.moodlogic.com) creates search application that allow you to.