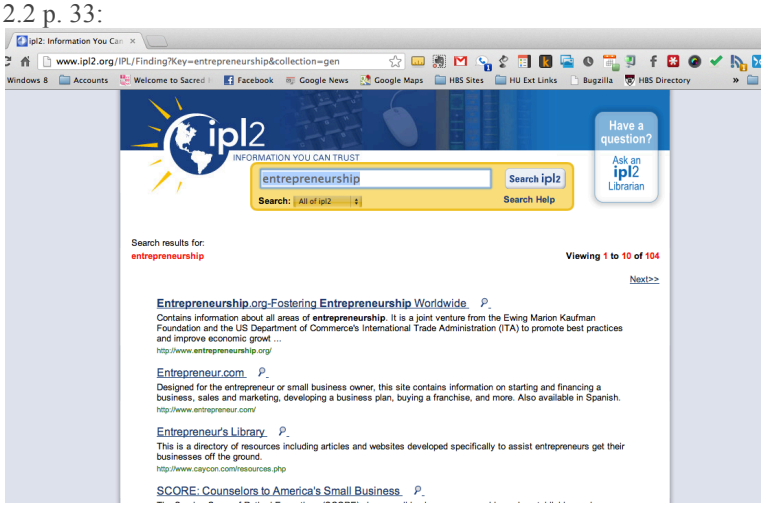
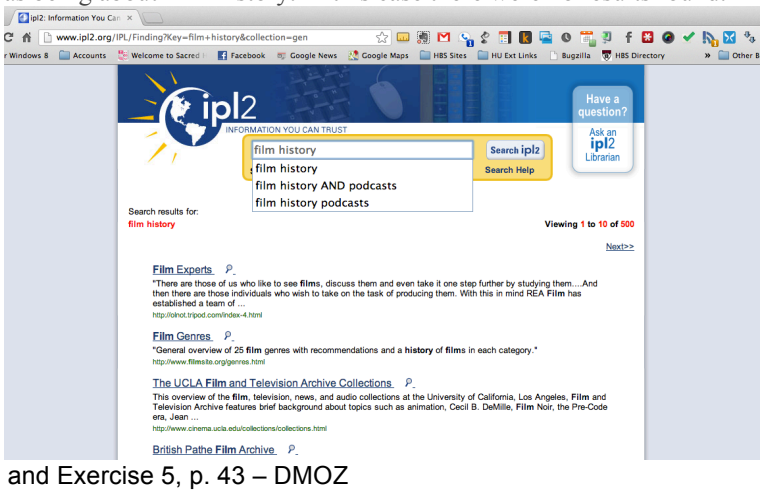
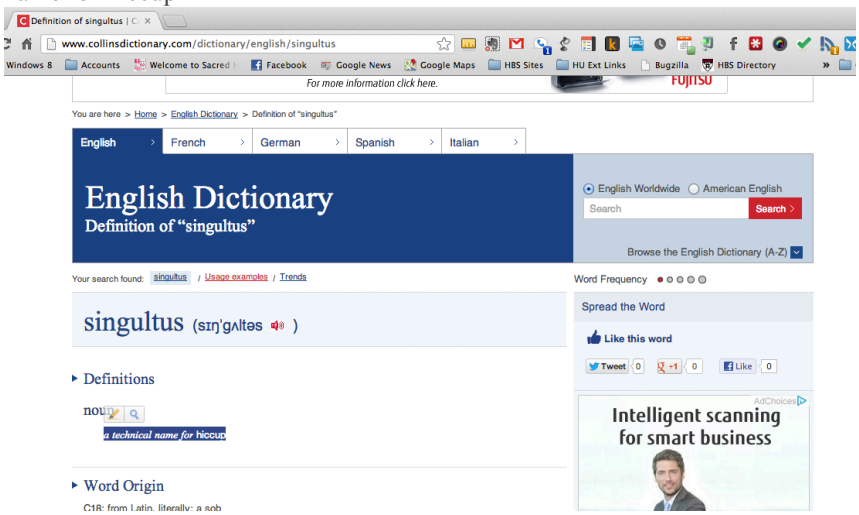
This assignment is **not** about search engines. Please do your best to understand this and keep search engines out of your narrative.

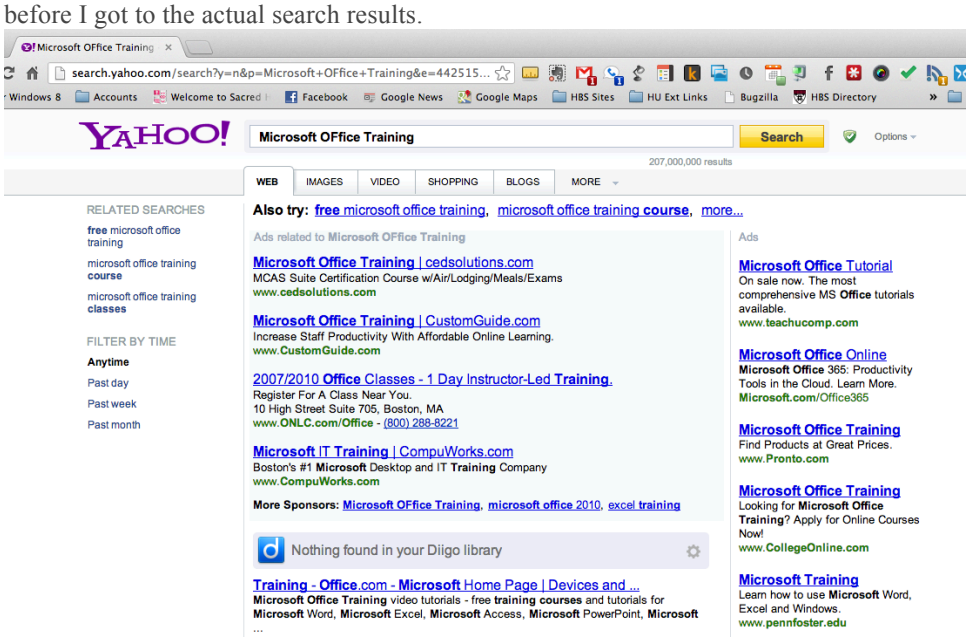
Structured Browse: You should look for items relevant for your classroom as you complete these items.

1. Do Activity 2.2, p. 33 and Exercise 6, p. 21 – IPL2 (be sure to explain a pathfinder or LibGuide and search for podcasts).
    a. Activity 2.2 p. 33:
        i. 

        ii. This exercise was helpful in showing me that while browsing can be effective for researching a particular topic, if a topic is more broad, or might span various categories of sections of a digital library, searching would be more helpful as it would pick out the word in all areas, not just the one category.
    b. Activity 6 p. 21
        i. National Society of Accountants, European Accounting Association, Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants
        ii. A pathfinder is an expert guide on a particular topic. It provides other resources like books, articles, mailing lists, etc. about the topic that you can look at for your research. A pathfinder is very useful when starting a research project because it can help you to find resources for your project. Often times finding a place to start when researching is one of the most difficult things. A pathfinder makes that easier by *finding a path* for you to start down.
        iii. When I do a search for **film history** it presents me with 500 results from the ipl2 about film history.
        iv. When I search for **podcasts** it presents 212 listings that will bring me to podcasts about different topics. One thing I could do when researching is add **podcasts** to my search to try to find a page with podcasts about my research topic. For example if I was researching film history, I could do a search for **"film history" AND podcasts** and it will present any podcasts that are listed as being about film history. In this case there were no results found.
        v. 

2. Exercise 3, p. 20 and Exercise 5, p. 43 – DMOZ

a. The reference section includes 1,116 dictionaries.
b. Definition of mendacious: "given to or characterized by deception or falsehood or divergence from absolute truth"
c. I did not find a definition for singultus. I simply found that a synonym is Hiccup.
d. On the Collins dictionary, I found the following definition for singultus: "a technical name for hiccup"
e. 

3. Do Exercise 7, p.43 (Use an educational topic for your classroom) – LibrarySpot & Yahoo! Directory
   a. I really dislike the way the directory is set up. It is very limited and doesn't seem to have a comprehensive list of topics. The categories that it uses are far too broad. I browsed through many topics and then used the search tool to find 4 results which were not even useful. The directory was searchable by keyword, but it was not easy to find, and not easy to use. It also yielded poor results.
   b. I was looking for information about Microsoft Office Training. I found the information I was looking for by browsing to: Directory > Business and Economy > Business to Business > Computers > Software > Business Applications > Office Suites > Microsoft Office > Resources. Yes, this directory is searchable by keyword.
   c. I prefer that Yahoo Directory because I was able to find my topic very easily and was able to easily search in the event that I could not easily find the topic. It was also a cleaner site, and had more to offer in terms of results, and granular categories. However, what I did not like was then when I searched I had to scroll through an entire page of ads before I got to the actual search results.
   d. 

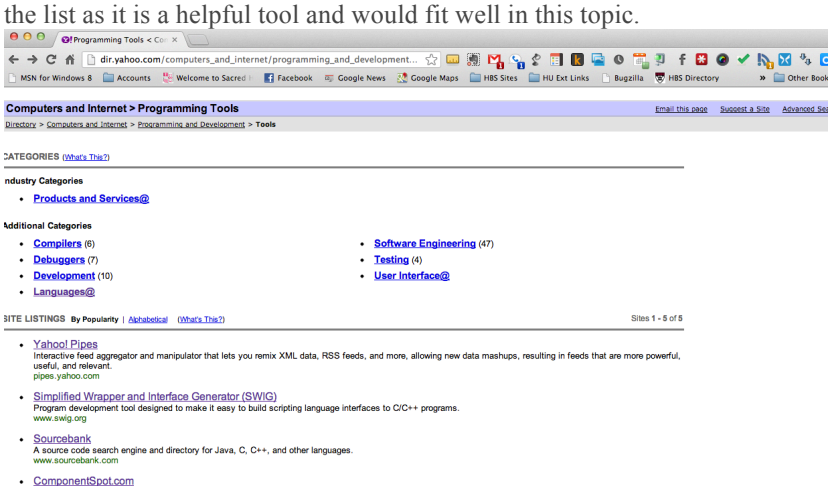
Sub-summary (1-3): Write a paragraph on your thoughts about doing a **structured browse with search directories and virtual libraries.**

This was an interesting assignment and reading. I had never heard of any of the sites that we looked at. I have become so familiar with search engines, and using Boolean operators to get just what I am looking for that I have not used directories in a long time. I liked that the virtual libraries put everything in front of you and showed you what your options were. The structured browse was also very helpful because it showed me categories that maybe I would not have thought about if I was just doing a search. Search directories was also great because it gave you relevant information and not just any site on the entire WWW with my topic on it. The most useful thing that I found was definitely the pathfinders. Those can be extremely useful when starting to do research.

Keyword Searching:

This assignment is still **not** about search engines. Directories can be keyword searched too.

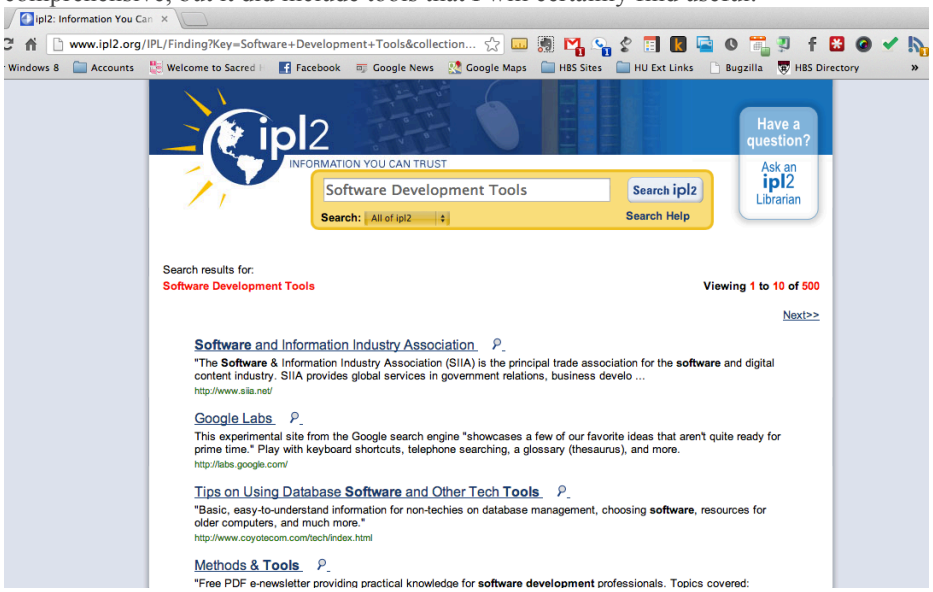
4. Do Exercise 6, p. 43 – using keyword searching and a topic for your classroom. – Yahoo! Directory
    a. I was doing research on Computer Programming Tools. I found: Directory > Computers and Internet > Programming and Development > Tools. There were five sites in this category. The four I visited were:
        i. Yahoo! Pipes
        ii. Simplified Wrapper and Interface Generator (SWIG)
        iii. Sourcebank (dead)
        iv. ComponentSpot.com (dead)
        v. As an absolute beginner just exploring the world of programming, when I first searched and saw the descriptions, I was happy to see that these tools are available to make programming easier. Yahoo! Pipes was great because it provided the actual tool and showed you how to use it. The SWIG site was a little more technical and did not have a very good site design like Pipes did. Then Sourcebank just redirected me to a forum about drivers, and ComponentSpot was just a dead domain. So overall I found Yahoo! Pipes to be the most useful. URL: http://pipes.yahoo.com/pipes/ I probably would have recommended Pipes and SWIG, but certainly not Sourcebank and ComponentSpot. I also might have included something like Selenium IDE to the list as it is a helpful tool and would fit well in this topic.



    vi.

5. Do Exercise 9, p. 44 – use the same topic part b (namely, RSS) **and** the same topic used in the question above. – IPL2.
    a. For RSS I went to the first link out of 53 total: RSS- http://www.webreference.com/authoring/languages/xml/rss/index.html. It had some useful information on it but was pretty technical (did not explain what XML is). It also included other articles about RSS, Validators, and also a list of RSS collections to browse.
    b. For Software Development Tools I got 500 total results. I clicked on GeekTools: http://whois.geektools.com/. This was a great site because it provided exactly what I was looking for. A list of tools to help with Software Development. It was not all that

comprehensive, but it did include tools that I will certainly find useful.



6. Do Exercise 3, p. 111 – use a classroom topic; record categories and subcategories but do not print.
    a. With all of the talk about Apple coming out with a watch, and Google Glass, I was looking for information on Wearable Computing, and was able to easily find that category by clicking through the following path: **Top** > **Computers** > **Hardware** > **Systems** > **Wearables** > **Wearable Electronics**

    b.

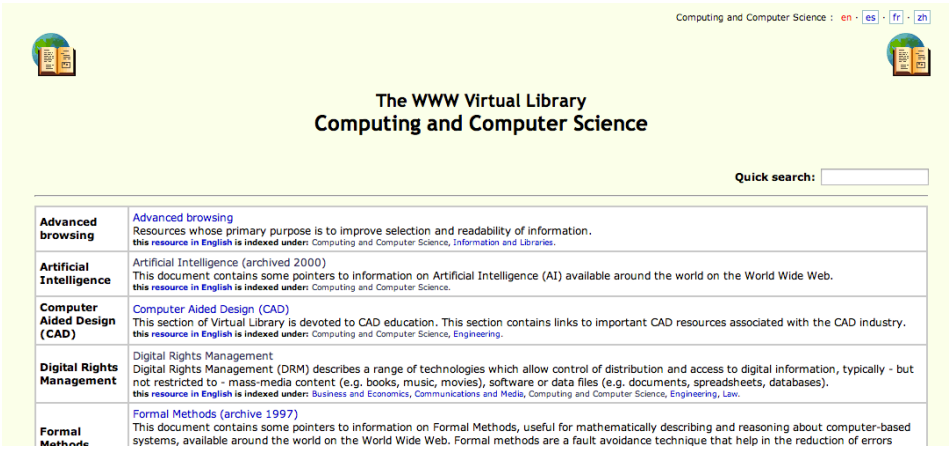
Sub-summary (4-6): Write a paragraph **comparing a keyword search to a structure browse of directories and virtual libraries.**

Types of Directories

Having done both now, I found it was actually more productive to do a structured browse than a keyword search. The structured browse has a collection of (usually) useful links, while the keyword search just throws any web site with the text on it back at you. I was disappointed to find the dead links, but that's not specific to a directory browse, that can and does happen often with searching. What I liked about DMOZ was that after finding what you were looking for, it gave you a link to search for that topic on several different search engines. I can see how that might be useful, if you're looking for more information about the topic than the directory results provide.

7. Pick a site not yet used from the Virtual Library listing from the " Interesting sites" in the "Overview" notes. Browse or keyword search using a classroom topic.
    a. I found Digital Rights Management as a topic under Computing and it gave me a great link to a description about digital rights management: http://www.drm.uk.com/. The

problem I found with the site was that it was last updated in 2009, so this is probably not the most up to date resource on DRM, but at least it gave me some good information to start.

b. 

8. Pick a site not yet used from the Directories and Subject Guides listing from the "Interesting sites" in the "Overview" notes. Browse or keyword search using a classroom topic.
    a. I chose to look at InfoMine. I wanted to see if I could locate wearable computing again. There was no parent topic for Computing, so I went into Business and Economics to start. It presented me with a search field, so I searched for wearable computing. It produced no results, but what I liked was that it also gave me a link to search all of InfoMine for the same query. Once I did that, I found 21 results. Unfortunately, all but one required a fee in order to read them.

    b. 

9. Do Exercise 1, p. 111 (words like **commercial**, **universities in England**, **volunteer editors** and **librarians** will be part of your answer). **Be sure to describe how the criteria differ.** It might be a bit of a challenge to find the criteria but worth the effort to understand the usefulness of these sites. There are clues in the notes and reading as well.
    a. https://ecom.yahoo.com/dir/submit/intro?.scrumb The Yahoo! Directory is composed by Yahoo! Based on submissions by companies who wish to be included. The companies need to adhere to several criteria and rules, and pay an annual fee to be included.
    b. According to the Harvard Library Research Guide InTute is: "A site of web teaching resources created by a network of UK universities and partners. Websites included in Intute have been selected and evaluated and contain quality descriptions by subject specialists." In this case, commercial companies cannot pay to be included and do not submit their company to be included in the listings. An independent group of researchers picks the sites it wants to include.
    c. Anyone can submit their site to the Open Directory Project, and a group of editors review the submission and add it to the appropriate category. It does not cost money like Yahoo! Directories does, and listings are submitted, not picked like with InTute.

d. For ipl2: Information You Can Trust, sites are collected by the consortium and added to the site based on several different criteria including: Availability, Authority and Authorship, Content, Legality, and web site design and functionality. Like InTute, sites are chosen by a consortium of Higher Ed faculty, and library staff. Sites cannot pay to be included, but can appeal the decision to either be, or not be included in the directory.

e. 

Sub-summary (7-9): Write a paragraph on the differences between different **human organized resource sites**. **Add a little about social bookmarking groups in your reflection near the end of the paragraph.**

The main difference between human organized resource sites is whether sites are chosen, or submitted for addition. Sites that are chosen may be more reliable because independent researchers have decided they were useful. Some sites that allow submission require a fee, and therefore eliminate sites that are unable to pay the fee. They also have a desire to make money, so sometimes their directories are more user-friendly because the more traffic they generate, the more people will want to submit their site. Additionally, sites that have collected sites to include may not be as user-friendly or well-designed because they may not have the funds to dedicate to that. Social bookmarking groups are an interesting way to collect sites. They buck both of these options that virtual libraries take, and allow a crowdsourcing type approach. Anyone can submit anything and they are not curated. They are simply managed by the people who use them.

Summary

10. Reread p. 86-89. Describe how you would teach these concepts to your students or you can also take a technology integrator role and explain how you would teach these concepts to your colleague (especially if your children are too young to be taught about these items). **Focus on the content more than the pedagogy in your explanation. You must start by listing the objectives including concepts to be covered.**

Learning Objectives/Content to be covered:

1. What directories are available?
2. What are some of the features that directories offer?
3. How is searching a curated directory different from searching the entire WWW using a search engine?

Because I do not have a classroom, my approach here will be to talk to my colleagues about online directories or virtual libraries and how they can be useful.

I would start my lesson by explaining the useful directories that are available. I would show them Yahoo! Directories, and explain that it is mainly for sites who pay an annual fee to be included, but has an excellent design and function to it that makes it very well organized and easy to search. I would also show them InTute and explain that it is a collection of sites collected by universities in the UK who have determined them worthy to be included. I would note the difference between the two being that one is submitted to, and the other is collected. I would also provide them with some recommendations for other directories like ipl2, DMOZ, and InfoMine.

Next, I would discuss with my colleagues the different features that several directories offer. I would include things like the fact that they are organized by category, and most are granular enough that they limit the sites you eventually have listed to exactly what you are looking for. I would explain the concept of the pathfinders that ipl2 offers. These unique features of some of the directories might be particularly useful for research, but not necessarily in a corporate environment.

Lastly, I would go over the strengths and weaknesses of directories over search engines. Directories have a more limited list of results that someone has chosen, so most often they are relevant to the topic you are looking for, and not just there because they contain the text of your search. Also, because the directories are curated, they have been organized much better than a search engine listing that can be gamed through Search Engine Optimization. However, given these strengths, I would explain that some directories are not update frequently and can become out of date very quickly, while search results will often let you sort by recently updated pages, or will allow you to eliminate date ranges from your search results. The ratings also depend on human opinion. If someone believes that a site fits under a category, that is where it is listed, rather than in a category where you might think it would be listed.