

## Article Databases


**Examples:** *Academic Search Complete*; many others listed by subject area under the "Articles" link in the "Find" column on the library's homepage:  
[www.library.ohiou.edu/find/articles.html](http://www.library.ohiou.edu/find/articles.html)

**Contents:** records (descriptions) for articles in periodicals (magazines, journals, newspapers), often including abstracts (summaries) and full-text.

**Selectivity:** selected and reviewed by editors and publishers in the first place; then selected for inclusion in databases, to which libraries subscribe.

**How to Search:** author, article title, periodical title, subject, keyword, other types of searches.

### To Get Full-Text:

1. follow direct link if available, or...
2. click on  to see if we have it in print or online, or...
3. write down or print out citation info and look up the periodical title in ALICE. Follow the Location and Call Number info in ALICE.

## Library Catalogs

**Examples:** ALICE; OhioLINK Library Catalog

**Contents:** ALICE has records for books, periodicals, videos, government documents, etc. in the OU Libraries. Connecting to OhioLINK gives the same info for about 90 libraries in Ohio, from which you can request books to be delivered to this campus.

**Selectivity:** selected and reviewed by editors and publishers in the first place; libraries also make selections for purchase.

**How to Search:** author, title, subject, keyword, other types of searches.

### To Get Full-Text:

**Print:** in ALICE, note Location, Call Number, and Status. If the Status is "AVAILABLE," go get it!

Otherwise, do a request from Library Annex, other OU campus, or OhioLINK.

**Note:** if books listed in the OhioLINK Library Catalog are "AVAILABLE" at any OU campus, you should get them from OU instead of OhioLINK.

### Online (some books; many

periodicals): follow links in ALICE; if you are off-campus, you will need to do a brief login.

## Web Search Tools

**Examples:** *Google, Yahoo, InfoTree*, etc.

**Contents:** links (sometimes with brief descriptions) to web pages of all sorts.

**Selectivity:** Depends on the type of search tool; see the back of this page.

**How to Search:** mostly keyword; subject browsing in many "web directories," such as *InfoTree* or *Intute*.

**To Get Full-Text:** click on the links.

For a comparison of types of Web Search Tools, see the other side of this page.

Although there is some overlap (duplication) in the contents of these three kinds of search tools, for the most part the contents of one type of tool will not be found in either of the other two.

# Web Search Tools

## Search Engines

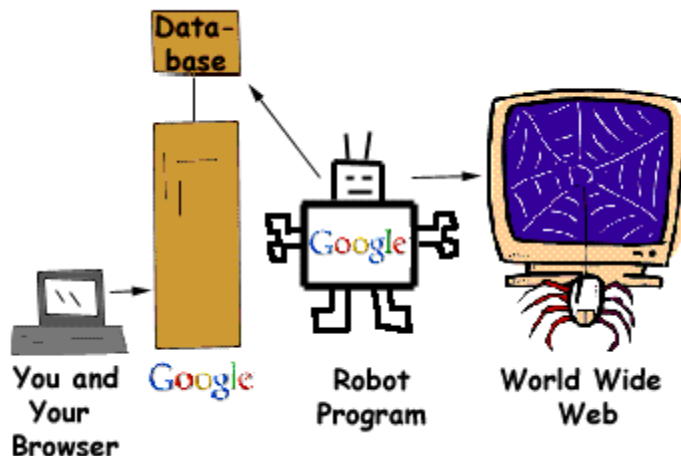
- Emphasis on **quantity** of pages found.
- Built by "robot" programs, not humans.
- Not selective.
- Contents are not evaluated for quality.
- Results "arranged," usually by "relevance".
- Most like a Keyword search on ALICE.
- No cross-references.
- Keyword searching only.
- To modify results, use Boolean connectors (e.g., AND or OR) or other techniques (e.g., phrase searching); use Advanced Search features, if available.

**Major advantage:** can find specific information "buried" inside websites

**Major disadvantage:** can bring back too many results

Not a "live" search of the Web; search engines only search that portion of the Web in the "Database" (see picture below) created by their robots.

**Examples:** *Google, Yahoo Search, Ask.com*



## Web Directories (Indexes)

- Emphasis on **quality** of pages found.
- Built by humans.
- Contents are specifically chosen for inclusion.
- Contents are evaluated for quality and relevance.
- Organized according to a scheme, usually a hierarchy of subjects (from broad to narrow).
- Most like a Subject search on ALICE (using a pre-defined list of terms).
- Includes *see* & *see also* references.
- Two types of searching: browse and keyword.
- To modify results, use Boolean connectors (e.g., AND or OR) or other techniques (e.g., phrase searching); or, browse different areas of the directory.

**Major advantage:** more selective contents; can be easily browsed

**Major disadvantage:** limited number of sites indexed

Not a "live" search of the Web; web directories include only that portion of the Web added to the "Index" (see picture below) by the people who manage them.

**Examples:** *InfoTree, Intute, InfoMine, Librarians' Internet Index*

