

Article Databases

Examples: *Academic Search Premier*; many others listed in *InfoTree*.

Contents: records (descriptions) for articles in periodicals, 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 Find a Copy 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 (magazines, journals, newspapers), videos, government documents, etc. in OU Libraries. Connecting to OhioLINK gives the same info for 80+ libraries around the state, from which books may be requested.

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 "AVAILABLE," go get it! Otherwise, do a request from Library Annex, other OU campus, or OhioLINK. **Note:** if books listed in OhioLINK Library Catalog are "AVAILABLE" at any OU campus, you must 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: Not selective. No quality control; anyone can put anything on the web.

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

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 a small amount of 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

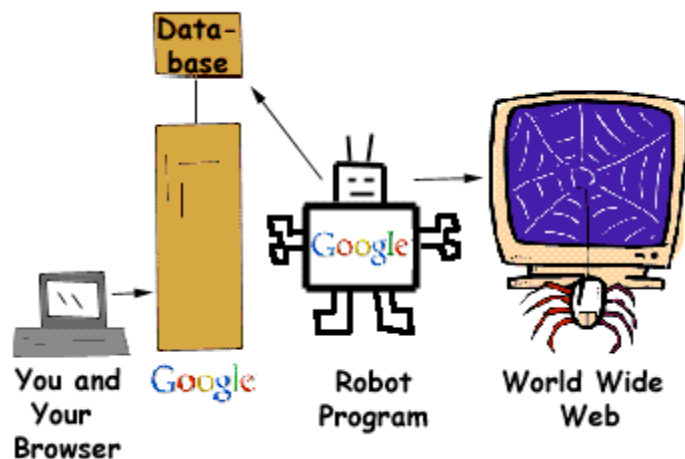
- Built by “robot” programs, not humans
- Not selective
- Contents are not evaluated for quality
- Results “arranged,” usually by “relevance”
- Most like a Keyword search on ALICE
- No cross-references
- Keyword searching only
- To modify results, use Boolean connectors (e.g., AND or OR) or other techniques (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, Alltheweb, Teoma, AltaVista*



Web Directories (Indexes)

- 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, Yahoo, Academic Info, InfoMine*

