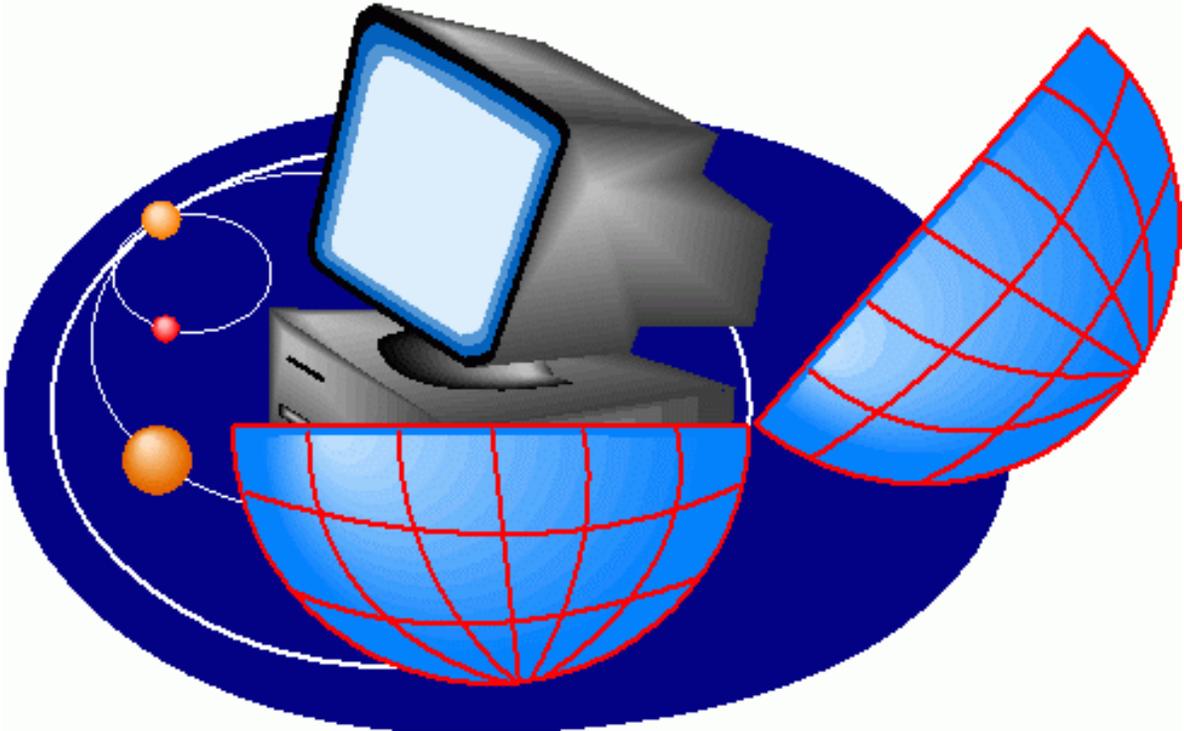


# Searching the Internet



## The World Wide Web

Location: Central Library, Technology Room  
Visit Schenectady County Public Library at <http://www.scpl.org>  
(The following document adapted from information found on <http://www.google.com> )

# Searching the Internet

**History of the World Wide Web:** The World Wide Web (WWW or “the Web”) is a component of the Internet. It was developed in 1990 by CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, so that visiting scientists could easily access, read and add to documents stored on their computers. In the 1950s and early 1960s, prior to the widespread inter-networking that led to the Internet, most communication networks were limited in that they only allowed communications between the stations on the network. Some networks had gateways or bridges between them, but these bridges were often limited or built specifically for a single use. One prevalent computer networking method was based on the central mainframe method, simply allowing its terminals to be connected via long leased lines. This method was used in the 1950s by Project RAND to support researchers such as Herbert Simon, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when collaborating across the continent with researchers in Sullivan, Illinois, on automated theorem proving and artificial intelligence.

## Finding Information

There are basically three ways to locate information on the World Wide Web:

1. **Enter the URL (Uniform Resource Locator – web address)**
2. **Links on a Web page**
3. **Search engine**

## The Internet: URLs



Every document on the Web has an address which is called the URL (Uniform Resource Locator). Each URL has several parts: the protocol, the host name and the domain name **http://** the first part identifies the document as a Web page. Other parts of the Web have different identifiers such as FTP (File Transfer Protocol) and IP (Internet Protocol) **www** document on the World Wide Web. Not all Web sites have this as part of their address.

**.google** host name

**.com** domain name that identifies category of the page. Other typical domain names include: • **gov** - Government agencies; • **edu** - Educational institutions; • **org** - Organizations (nonprofit); • **mil** – Military; • **com** - commercial business; • **net** – Network Organizations; • **ca** – Canada; • **th** – Thailand

A URL may have additional components that identify special features of the page such as **html** (hypertext markup language).

Most browsers will now locate a site even if you leave out the **http://** part of the address or the **www.** part of the address. Experiment with a few URLs

## Links on a Web page

Links are words or images on a Web page that point to other Web pages. When you move your arrow cursor over a link, a  will appear. The link usually will become underlined and highlighted in a distinctive color. Clicking once on a link with your mouse will automatically take you to a connecting page.

Since the Web is ever changing, some links may point to pages that no longer exist or have moved to a new location. When this happens, the computer will post a “file not found” message. (Your computer remembers where you were, letting you click on a “back arrow” to return to the previous page or pages).



## Search Engines

Search engines are web sites that allow you to type in a few key words and then present you with a list of possible links that might have the information you want. Although *search engine* is really a general class of programs, the term is often used to specifically describe systems like Google, Alta Vista and Excite that enable users to search for documents on the World Wide Web.

Google	<a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a>	Excite	<a href="http://www.excite.com">http://www.excite.com</a>
AltaVista	<a href="http://www.altavista.com">http://www.altavista.com</a>	Bing	<a href="http://bing.com">http://bing.com</a>
Dogpile	<a href="http://www.dogpile.com">http://www.dogpile.com</a>	Lycos	<a href="http://lycos.com">http://lycos.com</a>
Yahoo!	<a href="http://www.yahoo.com">http://www.yahoo.com</a>	Ask	<a href="http://ask.com">http://ask.com</a>
		WebCrawler	<a href="http://www.webcrawler.com">http://www.webcrawler.com</a>

There are hundreds of search engines in addition to the general use engines. For example, if you are over 50 try <http://www.good50.com> Yahoo has a special section just for seniors [http://dir.yahoo.com/Society\\_and\\_Culture/Cultures\\_and\\_Groups/Seniors](http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Cultures_and_Groups/Seniors) Did you know The Walt Disney Group has its own family friendly search portal <http://go.com> Explore other search engines at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_search\\_engines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_search_engines) and <http://www.thesearchenginelist.com> (note copywriter date.)

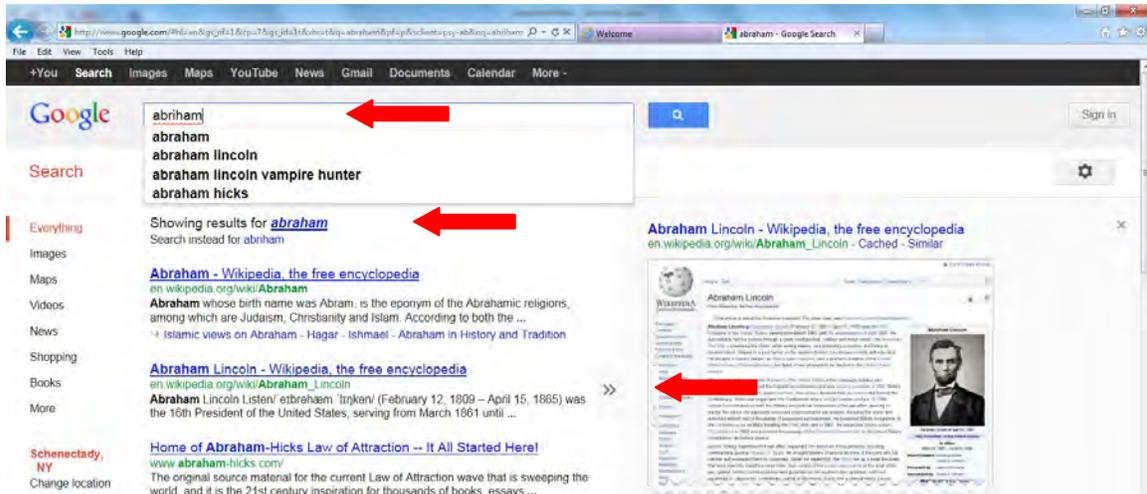
## Basic Searching Methods and Language

Searching the Internet can bring the information from around the world into your home/office or it can be an incredibly frustrating and time consuming disaster. Here are some strategies that will increase the likelihood of finding relevant information.

**Analyze your topic – what are you looking for?** Searching for very broad subjects, such as history of the United States, will produce a huge number of “hits” and be very confusing. What do we really want to know – a particular period in U.S. history, a list of democratic presidents, inflation rates during the 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Select keywords for your topic** - The keywords you choose may or may not bring you the results you want. Be prepared to use similar words for your topic

**Spelling help** – Most search engines will show you results for the topic it thinks you are most likely to want even if you are not sure of the spelling. As you type, a list of possible topics will appear.

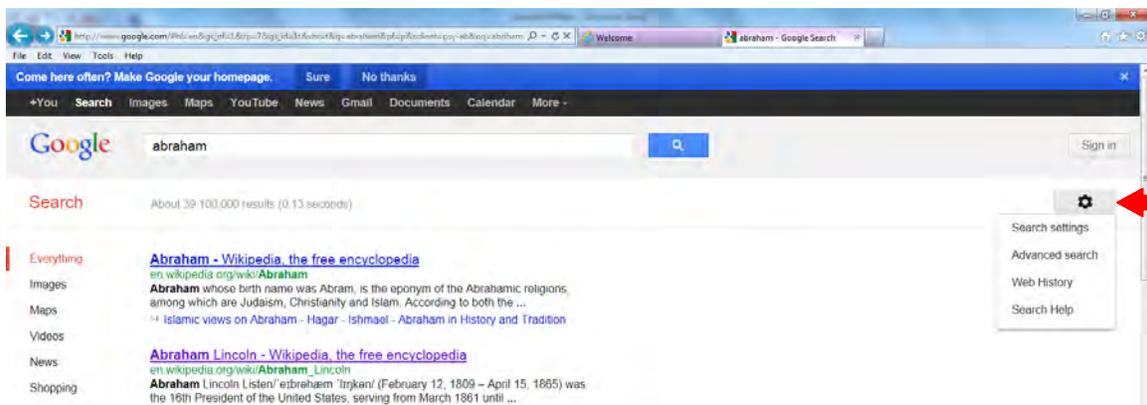


Google also has a preview feature. If you hover your arrow cursor over the right side of a search result, Google will display a preview of the website.

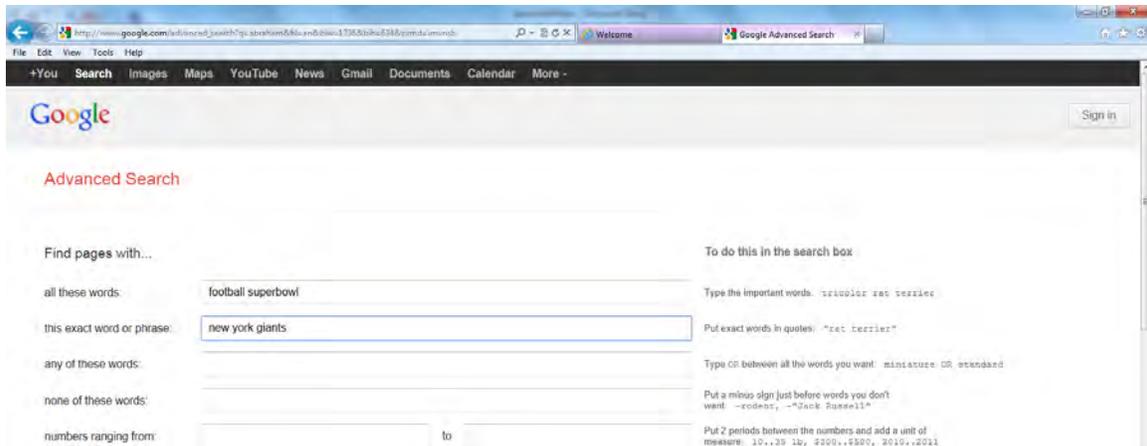
**Keyword Phrase searching** - Some search engines require the use of “ “, +, -. Quotation marks are used around words you want searched as a phrase. The + in front of a word (with no space) tells the search engine the word MUST appear in the results. The – in front of a word (with no space) tells the search engine that the word MUST NOT be included in the results. Since Google automatically returns pages that include all keywords, the plus sign (+) and the operator AND are not needed.

**Case sensitivity** - Most search engines ignore case. Generally, enter your search terms using lower case. It is quicker and will give you more results. However, if you are looking for a specific person, place, title, capitalize the first letter of each word.

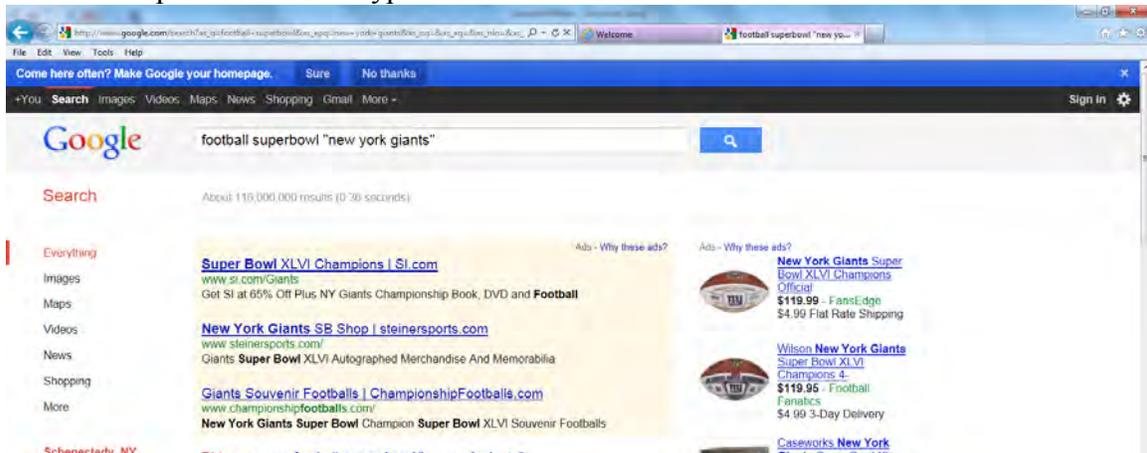
**Boolean searching** – Click on for the Advanced Search option.



General speaking, search engines will have some advanced search feature that will automatically construct a Boolean logical search statement for you.



Clicking on Advanced Search in Google will bring you to a screen that prompts you with how to complete a Boolean type search.



Notice the “ “ around New York Giants and that the words did not have to be capitalized in the search field. Google searched for websites that had the three words next to each other. Advanced search queries can help you narrow/refine your search.

## Evaluating your sources

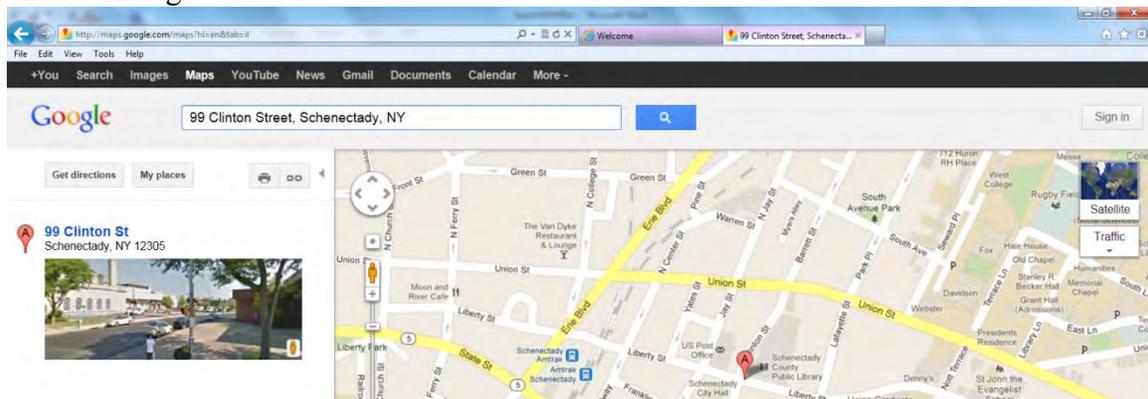
It is very important to evaluate the validity of your information. Just because it appears on the Internet does not mean it is true, accurate, or reflective of any kind of reliable scholarship. The UC Berkeley Library has the following eight-point evaluation checklist:

- What can the URL tell you?
- Who wrote the page? Is he, she, or the authoring institution a qualified authority?
- Is it dated? Current - timely?
- Is information cited authentic?
- Does the page have overall integrity and reliability as a source?
- What's the bias?
- Could the page or site be ironic, like a satire or a spoof?
- If you have questions or reservations, how can you satisfy them?

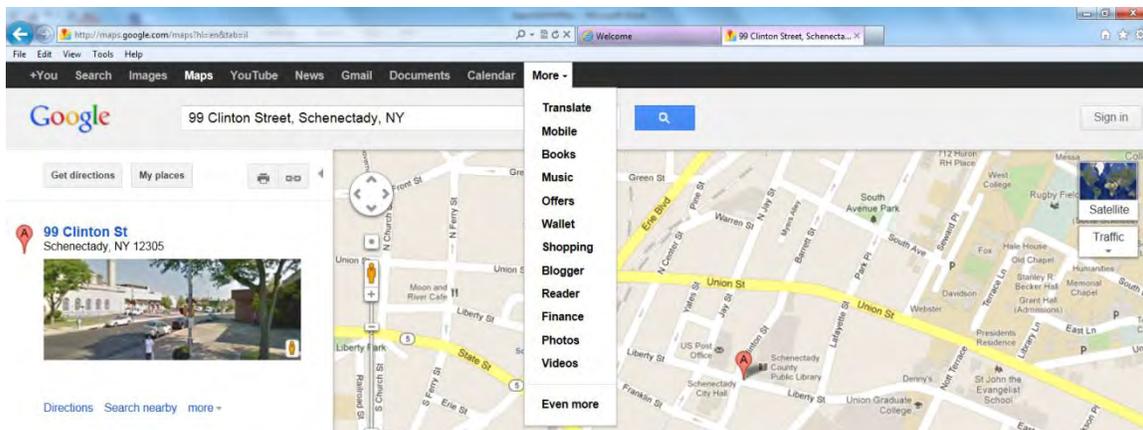
# Getting to Know Google

Google was founded by Sergey Brin and Larry Page while they were students at Stanford University. It was incorporated as a privately held company on September 4, 1998. Since then, Google has become a leader in the field of Internet search engines.

**Special features searching** - In addition to the keyword search feature, Google offers a menu of topic search links that focuses your search. For example, if you are looking for directions to a restaurant, click on Maps. If you are looking for free clipart, click on Images.

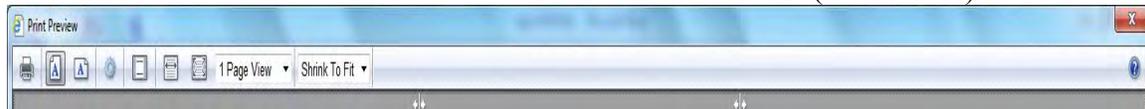


Notice the array of choices under More.



## Printing a Page

Click File  Print Preview OR shortcut icon on toolbar (if available).



Print Preview lets you see what the webpage or selection from the webpage will look like when it is printed. It also tells you the number of printed pages that will be produced. Some sites may have 30 or more pages, so be sure to check before printing!

# Now You Try It!!

## Exercises for Searching the Internet

1. You want to research the history of the U.S. White house. Enter *White House* as your search term. Are the results specific to your topic? How many Results are listed? Now try *history White House*. Are the Results more relevant?
2. Click Images. You know Larry Hart has a wide selection of pictures of the history of Schenectady. What search terms would you enter? View images using your key words.
3. Click Maps. Enter your address. If a picture of your house appears on the map, click “street view” under the picture.
4. Click More  Finance Enter *GE* for the latest stock quote.
5. Explore the popular YouTube feature under the More menu.
5. Click Search. Enter SCPL Click on the library homepage link. Click on “Reference and Research” hotlink on the left of the page. Explore the “Selected Internet Links” section.
6. Return to the Google homepage. Enter *SCPL*. Click the “I’m feeling lucky” button. How does this differ from the regular search results?
7. How did Google get its name?
8. Compare search results using Bing.com, Google, and a search engine from <http://www.thesearchenginelist.com> for a simple search on your favorite food.

Here are a few popular sites to explore

The White House	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>
CNN	<a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a>
Postage & zip codes	<a href="http://www.usps.gov">www.usps.gov</a>
Weather	<a href="http://www.weather.com">www.weather.com</a>
Union College	<a href="http://www.union.edu">www.union.edu</a>
Library of Congress	<a href="http://www.loc.gov">www.loc.gov</a>
Fodor’s restaurant guide	<a href="http://www.Fodors.com">www.Fodors.com</a>
Amazon (books, music, etc.)	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
ESPN	<a href="http://www.espn.com">www.espn.com</a>
E-bay	<a href="http://www.ebay.com">www.ebay.com</a>
Craig’s list	<a href="http://www.craigsl.com">www.craigsl.com</a>
Free downloads	<a href="http://www.shareware.com">www.shareware.com</a>
Games	<a href="http://games.yahoo.com">http://games.yahoo.com</a>
More Google products	<a href="http://www.google.com/intl/en/options">http://www.google.com/intl/en/options</a>

## Searching the Internet tutorials

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html> Finding Information on the Internet: a Tutorial. Copyright (C) 2008 by the Regents of the University of California

<http://www.refdesk.com/factbeg.html> Internet's Beginner's Guides & Tutorials. An assortment of 25 different links covering basic WWW to a mouse tutorial. (Not all links are currently available)

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/phys/inst/searchinginternet.html> How the Internet Works. Interactive Guide. Sponsored by Perdue University

<http://www.googleguide.com> Google Guide is an online interactive tutorial and reference for experienced users, novices, and everyone in between. Not affiliated with nor endorsed by Google

<http://www.internettutorials.net> Easy to understand information on Boolean logic, search strategies and tools

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html> Interesting comparison of three search engines by UC at Berkeley