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Effective Searching – How to find what you're looking for!

Most people go onto the Internet for a purpose. They are looking for information, communication, shopping, etc. It is an excellent source of research and information. Some people are **surfers**, that is, people who just jump from site to site with no real purpose, just to look for something interesting. Today we will show you how to find specific items and what internet resources best help you find what you're looking for.

Starting the Internet

1. Open your Internet browser
2. The browser will start and you will see its **Home Page**. Record the web address of your computer's current home page: _____

Which Search Engine to Use?

To help you research on the Internet there are sites that retrieve and store data from the Internet called **Search Engines**. Each search engine differs by the way it collects data from the internet (a procedure called *crawling*) and how it stores the data in its database. There is also a type of search engine called a **meta-search engine**. A meta-search engine collects data from several search engines and organizes the results. Meta-search engines typically do not have their own databases and rely on the information from search engines.

Now let's take a look at a few different search engines and meta-search engines and make a comparison based the results of the same information. When you use a search engine to find information it is called a "**web search query**" because we are asking (or querying) a search engine for specific information.

1. You will perform a web search query for the topic: Abraham Lincoln.
2. Go to the following sites and type **Abraham Lincoln** into the search field. On most sites, you'll see the search engine begin to Auto Fill suggested queries based on what you are typing. You can either select *Abraham Lincoln* from the list of suggestions or type in the entire name and click **Enter** for the **Search** icon. In the Results and Special Features section, record the number of results, the amount of time it took the site to find the results, and any special information or features the search engine featured. The results for Google™ serve as an example.

Search Engine	**Address**	**Results and Special Features**
Google	www.google.com	• Returned nearly 50 millions results • Returned results in 29 seconds • Offered images and a small biography of Lincoln as a search result
Yahoo	www.yahoo.com	

Bing	www.bing.com	
MSN	www.msn.com	

Meta- Search

Engine	**Address**	**Results and Special Features**
Dogpile	www.dogpile.com	
Zoo (formerly meta-crawler)	www.zoo.com	

Which search engine did you like best?	
Why?	