

DIGITAL LITERACY

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ACCESSING INFORMATION

(in order of reliability/usefulness)

□ Gateways

○ Library

Information sites collected, recommended and reviewed by professional librarians.

- Individual school library websites
- Infomine <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>
- Internet Public Library www.ipl.org

□ Databases

○ Fee-based databases

- EBSCO
- Thompson/Gale

○ Subject-specific databases

- Expedia (travel)
- Monster (jobs)

□ Search engines

○ Individual (best for finding keywords in full-text and returning a wide range of responses)

Provide access to a fairly large portion of the Web. Employ 'spiders' to identify pages by matching keywords and phrases. Some rank by popularity.

Pros: searches the largest portion of the Web

Cons: irrelevancy/too many hits

- Google [Google Scholar- scholar.google.com]
- Teoma

○ Individual partnered with subject directories (best for browsing)

Employ human editors to review and select sites for the directory. Often annotations only.

Pros: smaller/higher quality

Cons: oversights/dead links

- MSN
- Yahoo

○ Metasearch engines

Do not crawl the web, but use multiple search engines simultaneously to determine which one is retrieving the best results for your search.

Pros: very fast

Cons: less search options/subject directories limit hits/not enough use Google

- Dogpile
- Vivisimo
- Mamma