

SEARCHING the INTERNET

Finding useful information on the internet is more than merely google searching words. If your topic is too broad, a flood of websites will appear. Follow these basic strategies to help narrow and locate information for your topic.



1. Try to find an organization that provides information about your topic on its website (example, www.cancer.org for the American Cancer Society). To find topic specific organizations:
 - a. Do a google search for (*your topic*) *organizations*. Sometimes one or more organizations and their websites will be listed.
 - ⇒ Example - google *honey bee organizations*. Several entries down will be www.abfnet.org - the website for the American Beekeeping Federation. Websites such as these will often contain credible information about the specific topics.Also listed may be websites that contain lists of organization websites.
 - ⇒ Example - google *government organizations*. Shown is www.usa.gov which is a website listing U.S. government departments and agencies.
 - b. Go to www.wikipedia.org and search your topic. Although the credibility of Wikipedia may be questionable, links to credible organizations are often provided.
 - ⇒ Example - search epilepsy on Wikipedia. Listed in the references at the bottom of the article is the Epilepsy Foundation. A google search for *epilepsy foundation* will show www.epilepsyfoundation.org. a website about epilepsy. Also listed are local and regional organizations that provide additional information.Wikipedia will sometimes provide *external links* to other websites at the end of articles.
2. To find the latest internet news on your topic, google (*your topic*) *news*.
 - ⇒ Example - google *solar power news*. Numerous websites appear that contain information on solar power in the news.
3. The more specific the terms in your search, the more focused your search will be.
 - ⇒ Example - A google search for *common cold* will yield over 14 million websites. However, a search for *URTI* will yield less than 700,000 -still a lot, but a bit more manageable.(URTI is an acronym for *upper respiratory tract infection*. By searching *common colds* in Wikipedia, the term *URTI* is found. In this case, Wiki helped narrow and focus the search.

So, try . . .

1. (*your topic*) *organizations*
2. (*your topic*) *news*
3. . . . using Wikipedia as a search tool to help narrow and focus your topic. Look for *technical terms*, *external links*, *references*.

Remember to consider the credibility of every website visited!