

WWW – Searching the Internet

A Workshop for San Diego State University Students



Where to Find Help When You Need It

Student Computer Help Web Site

The computer help web site for students provides information about the type of help you can get and locations where help is available. To find this information, look to:

<http://rohan.sdsu.edu/~students>

Help from the BATS Web Page

BATS (Baseline Access, Training and Support) is a California State University initiative to provide all students, faculty, and staff with "baseline" access to information resources via networks, training in the uses of baseline hardware and software systems, and ongoing professional and technical support for utilization of computer resources at San Diego State University. You can access the BATS Web Page by pointing your browser to:

<http://rohan.sdsu.edu/~bats/>

Help in the Love Library Student Computing Lab

The Student Computing Lab's purpose is to facilitate students in completing assigned class work, as well as provide assistance to students having computer problems relating to the Internet, Netscape, SPSS, File Transfers, PC Operating Systems, Microsoft Office Software and Business Databases.

Location: 2nd floor of the Love Library building in LL-224
Hours:

10:00am – midnight	Sunday
7:00am – midnight	Monday - Thursday
7:00am - 6:00pm	Friday
10:00 am - 6:00pm	Saturday

Help from the Student Computing Help Desk

Phone: 594-3189
Location: Love Library 220
Hours:

8:00am – 4:30pm	Monday
8:00am – 4:30pm	Tuesday
8:00am – 7:30pm	Wednesday
8:00am – 7:30pm	Thursday
8:00am – 4:30pm	Friday

E-mail: problems@rohan.sdsu.edu

Table of Contents

What is the Web?	1
Navigating the Web: URL's.....	1
Web-based Research: Three Ways to Search.....	2
Web Advisory	2
Evaluating What You Find: Questions to Ask.....	3
Where to look for answers	3
Citing What You Find.....	4
Subject Directories Comparison Chart Correct as of: 3/01	5
Search Engine Comparison Chart Correct as of 1/02	6

A Guide to Web-based Research

What is the Web?

The Internet and the Web are not synonymous. The **Internet** is the worldwide collection of computer networks that can transfer and share information, based on various protocols. The **Web** is one part of the Internet, based on a particular protocol (http). It is a hypertext system encompassing an ever-increasing portion of Internet resources.

Navigating the Web: URL's

Each Web page has a unique URL, or Uniform Resource Locator. Always type a URL exactly as it appears, at least what follows the http://. Here's what a URL contains:

http://infodome.sdsu.edu/web.html

Protocol: tells the computer how to handle a file. In this case, it is hypertext transfer protocol (http), which means the file is a Web page.

http://infodome.sdsu.edu/web.html

Domain: this identifies the computer the file is stored on, including its name. In this case the computer name is libweb.

Top-level domain: the last three letters (.edu in this case) indicate what type of institution owns a computer. These are sometimes loosely defined, so use these as a rule of thumb. A partial list of top-level domains:

.com	=	commercial	.gov	=	government
.org	=	non-profit organization	.mil	=	military
.edu	=	educational (e.g., SDSU)	.net	=	network

There are also two letter top-level domains that indicate the country a computer is in (e.g., http://www.gov.sg indicates Singapore). A list of these country code top-level domains is available at <http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld-whois.htm>.

http://infodome.sdsu.edu/web.html

File name: this is the name of the file. In this case the file name is web.html.

➤ More information at: <http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/web/wwwdos.shtml>

Web-based Research: Three Ways to Search

1. SDSU Library Catalog (the PAC)
<<http://libpac.sdsu.edu/>>
Provides call numbers for books located in the SDSU library and links to electronic books.
 - 2a. Articles - Electronic Journals and Magazines, and Newspapers
<<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/ejournals/ejournals.shtml>> and
<<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/newspapers.shtml>>
Provide links to the full text of electronic journals and magazines, and newspapers, respectively.
 - 2b. Articles - Periodical Indexes and Databases
<<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/databases/databases.shtml>>
Provides information about articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers. Some databases offer full text of the article while others include the citation only. Many are subject-specific.
 3. Web Finding Tools (Subject Directories, Search Engines, etc.)
<<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/recommend.shtml>>
Provides links to URL's for Web pages.
- More information at: <http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/internet.shtml>

Web Advisory

1. Not everything is available on the Web. In fact, there is a great deal of information that is either not available or not reliable on the Web. For this reason, make sure the Web is best place to find what you're looking for. If you need help, please ask a librarian.
 2. Many of us with Internet/Web accounts are potential publishers on the Web, most of the contents of which are published without editorial review. Think about it.
 3. Despite the best intentions of the designers of at least some Web sites, there is no logical organization of the Web as a whole that Web finding tools can take advantage of.
 4. HTML, the language of the Web, provides for little content description of individual Web pages that can be analyzed by Web finding tools. This means that these tools cannot provide perfect results; they usually yield results that only partially satisfy search criteria.
 5. No one Web finding tool is comprehensive. In fact, much of what is on the Web is invisible to finding tools available for use by the general public. This is due both to Web document design (e.g., use of frames, image maps, scripts, etc.) and Web site restrictions.
- More information at: <http://libweb.sdsu.edu/research/web/advisory.shtml>

NOTE: Library resources (catalogs, indexes, databases, etc.) are also on the Web. These can be distinguished from other Web resources by virtue of one or more of the following characteristics:

1. They are often not free and are purchased in part using, in the case of SDSU, funds from tuition and taxes.
2. They provide access to sources of information that were evaluated by, for example, editors or peer reviewers, prior to their publication.
3. They often have access restrictions.

Evaluating What You Find: Questions to Ask

Authority

Who is the author? Who is responsible for publishing the information? What are the credentials and affiliation or sponsorship of any named individuals or organizations? How objective, reliable, and authoritative are they? Is the author or contact person with addresses (street, e-mail) listed?

Content

What can be said about the content, context, style, structure, completeness, and accuracy of the information provided by the source? Are any conclusions offered? If so, based on what evidence? Are diverse perspectives provided? Is the content relevant to your information needs?

Objectivity

Why was the information provided by the source published? What are the perspectives, opinions, assumptions and biases of whoever is responsible for this information? Is anything being sold? Who is the intended audience?

Currency

When was the information provided by the source published? Is the information provided by the source in its original form or has it been revised? Is this information timely? Is this information updated regularly? Is there a date of creation or revision?

Authenticity

Where else can the information provided by the source be found? Is this information authentic? Is this information unique or has it been copied?

Where to look for answers

Ideally, Web pages will include the following elements that can be used in the evaluation process:

1. Author or contact person with addresses (street, e-mail)
2. Date of creation or revision
3. URL
4. Link to sponsoring institution Web site

➤ More information at: <http://libweb.sdsu.edu/research/evaluate/evaluate.shtml>

Citing What You Find

For each example, both American Psychological Association (APA) and Modern Language Association (MLA) styles are given. Copies of each style manual are available at the General Reference Desk in the Library. Their call #'s are BF 76.7P83 (APA) and LB 2369.M53 (MLA).

1. Specific Documents from a Web Site

a. APA

Hinchliffe, L. (1999, May 25). Finding book reviews. Normal, IL: Milner Library, Illinois State University. Retrieved December 17, 1999 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.mlb.ilstu.edu/ressubj/subject/general/bkrevs.htm>

b. MLA

Belton, Robert J. "What Is Art?" *Art History: A Preliminary Handbook*. 1996. Okanagan University College. 17 Dec. 1999 <<http://www.arts.ouc.bc.ca/fiar/whatsart.html>>.

2. Articles from Electronic Journals on the Web

a. APA

Swanson, H. L. (1999). What develops in working memory? A life span perspective. *Developmental Psychology*, 35, 986-1000. Retrieved December 17, 1999 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.apa.org/journals/dev/dev354986.html>

b. MLA

Cohn, Richard. "Music Theory's New Pedagogability." *Music Theory Online* 4.2 (1998): 25 pars. 17 Dec. 1999 <<http://smt.ucsb.edu/mto/issues/mto.98.4.2/mto.98.4.2.cohn.html>>.

3. Articles from Full-Text Databases on the Web

a. APA

Mukerjee, M. (1997). Trends in animal research. *Scientific American*, 276 (2), 86+. Retrieved December 17, 1999 from InfoTrac database (Expanded Academic Index) on the World Wide Web: <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>

b. MLA

Harris, H. R. "Jane Austen's Venture into Tragedy." *Contemporary Review* 272 (1998): 314-18. PerAbs. FirstSearch. Milner Lib., Illinois State U., Normal, IL. 17 Dec. 1999 <<http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org/>>.

These examples were taken from Citing Internet and Electronic Resources, courtesy of the Milner Library, Illinois State University (<http://www.mlb.ilstu.edu/ressubj/subject/intrnt/citeweb.htm>).

➤ More information at: <http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/cite.shtml>

Subject Directories Comparison Chart

Correct as of: 3/01

	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> INFOMINE </div> infomine.ucr.edu	lii.org <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Librarians' Index to the Internet </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> The WWW Virtual Library </div> conbio.rice.edu/vl/database	www.yahoo.com <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Yahoo </div>
Default	Finds all terms	Finds all terms	Finds all terms	Finds all terms
Required/ Excluded	No	No	No	+ / -
Phrase	"..."	No	No	"..."
Wildcard	Auto Stemming	*	No	*
Case Sensitive	No	No	No	No
Connectors AND OR NOT	AND OR	AND OR NOT	AND OR NOT	Advanced Search menu: All words (AND) Any words (OR)
Field Searching	Subject, title	Subject, title, keywords, etc.	No	t:zen u:sandiego
Other Limiting	No	Advanced Search: author, publisher, etc.	No	No

Dreger/Harley 3/01

Search Engine Comparison Chart

Correct as of 1/02

	AltaVista www.altavista.com	search.excite.com Excite	www.google.com Google	HotBot www.hotbot.com
Default	Finds any terms	Finds any terms	Finds all terms	Finds all terms
Required/ Excluded	Simple Search: + / -	+ / -	+ / - (+ is only needed to include stopwords)	+ / -
Phrase	"..."	"..."	"..."	"..." or use menu
Wildcard	*	No.	No.	* ? = 1 character
Case Sensitive	Only capital letters are case sensitive.	No.	No.	Any capital letter makes the entire word case sensitive
Connectors AND OR NOT	Advanced Search: AND OR AND NOT	AND OR AND NOT	OR	Choose Boolean from menu & use: AND OR NOT
Field Searching	title:hamlet domain:edu etc.	No.	intitle:hamlet allintitle:hamlet ophelia etc.	title:hamlet domain:edu etc.
Limiting	Language Power Search: Date, Domain, Location	More, then Advanced Search: Domain, Language, Location	Advanced Search: Domain, Language	Date, Language Advanced Search: Domain, Location