



How to Search the Internet

<http://www.qvcc.commnet.edu/library>
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Quinebaug Valley Community College · Library

4 easy ways to find information on the Internet

- Go directly to a web address.
- Use a search engine to search a topic.
- Use a web directory, subject list, or reference list.
- QVCC Internet Sites by Subject - <http://www.qvcc.commnet.edu/starting.asp>

Search Engines

- Popular search engines: **Google, Ask.com, Yahoo!, Live Search, Dogpile.**
- Ask yourself where you might find the information you want. For example, data about crime is kept by the **FBI**. Reliable medical information can be found at the **CDC** (Centers for Disease Control).

The best way to find good information on the Internet is to search inside of a website that is known to have relevance to your topic.



- Understand web addresses (URLs) and know your domains. Consider trying the **Advanced Search** to specify a domain.

Domain	Administrator
.com	Commercial entities
.edu	Educational institutions
.gov	Government agencies
.org	Non-profit organizations
.mil	Military
.net	Network infrastructure

The QVCC Library's Internet Sites by Subject list

- The Library maintains a list of good Internet websites that are useful to students.
- Look for the list under the **Research** tab and click **Find Useful Websites**.
- Select a Resource that makes sense for your topic.

Evaluating Internet Information

- Anybody can publish on the Web, making it awfully easy to find bogus information.
- Anybody can write or edit a Wikipedia article, which makes it off-limits for most academic research.
- Ask yourself:

1. Does the page look serious?

- What does the appearance of the page tell you? Does it look professional or amateurish?
- Is there advertising on the page? What kind of advertising? How does it affect the quality of the information?
- Are sources given for facts or statistics?
- What kind of tone does the article have? Is it well-written? Are there paragraphs? How's the grammar and spelling? Are there any typos? Does the text make sense?

2. Who wrote it?

- Is there an author?
- Does the author offer any credentials? Is the author an expert or an amateur?
- Is there a link to information about the author?

3. Who is the sponsor of the site?

- Does a particular organization provide the Web site where the article was posted?
- Is the sponsor of the site a reputable organization or a special-interest group that has an obvious bias?
- Is there a link to information about the sponsoring organization?

4. When was the article written?

- Is there a publication date or copyright date or last updated date at the beginning or end of the article?
- If there's no date on the article, is there a date on the site's home page?
- If there's no date on the article or site home page, can you verify how current the site is from the text of the article?

5. Why was this information published?

- As a public service? To educate the public about something?
- As entertainment?
- To sell something?
- To convince you of something?
- Is the information biased? Is this a bad thing?

Citing Your Sources

The Library has guides that can help you to correctly format Works Cited, References, and Bibliographies.

1. Open the library home page.
2. Locate **Guides** from the main menu and select **Citing Sources**.
3. Select **APA, MLA, or Chicago/Turabian** format.

