

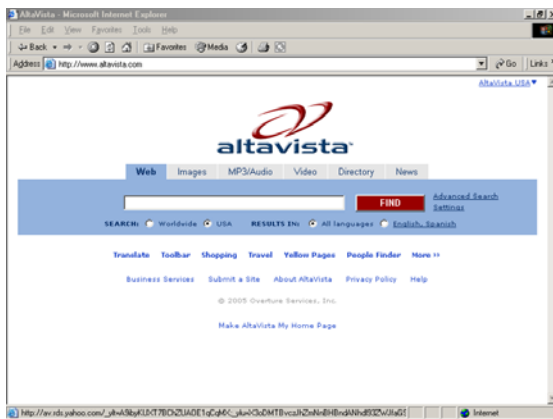
## Search Tools

**Definition** - Utilities available on the [Internet](#) to help you find information among the millions of documents on the Web. They help you find information on specific topics.

**Search Tools** are categorized into three types: [Internet](#) Directories, Search Engines and Meta-Search Engines. Each type of searching tool accomplishes a different task and locates information in a different way. For example, an [Internet](#) directory will classify information by topic and also allows you to choose one of the topics or type a keyword or phrase to search. A search engine will search the entire contents of the [Internet](#) by keyword(s). A meta-search engine will search a dozen different search engines and directories simultaneously and display the ten best responses from each search engine.

### Search Engines

[AltaVista](http://altavista.com) <http://altavista.com> - searches through more than 30 million [Web pages](#). Use "+" to indicate words that must be contained on a page. Use "-" for words that must not be contained on pages. Quotation marks must be used for searching phrases.



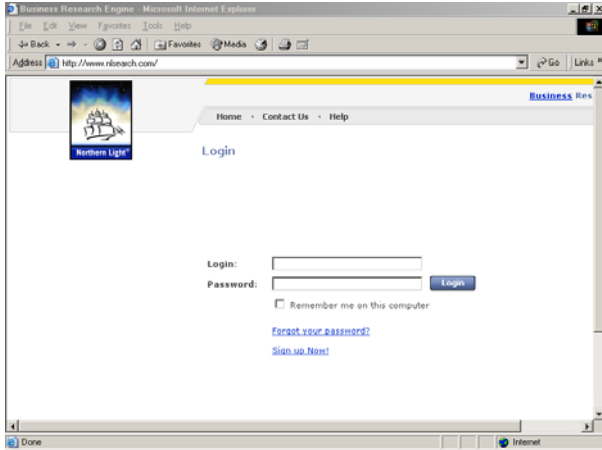
Excite - <http://www.excite.com> Searches 50 million [Web sites](#). Provides expanded features to include proper names and keyword weighting by using the ^.

KidsClick <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick> - a database of more than 5,000 records of interest to kids.

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MathSearch - <http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/MathSearch.html> - More than 190,000 Web documents from mathematics and statistics servers.

Northern Lights - <http://www.nlsearch.com>



## Subject Directories

Yahoo - <http://www.yahoo.com> Yahoo is updated daily and allows both browsing and subject category searches. It has many topics to search.

Lycos: <http://www.lycos.com> A very large database. It has specialty areas for locating multimedia.

Infoseek: <http://www.infoseek.com> Seeks the most closely matched information and relevant matches.

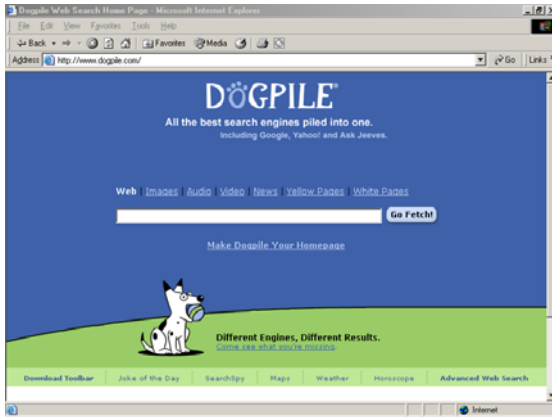
Argus Clearinghouse <http://www.clearinghouse.net>

Librarian's Index to the Internet: <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex>

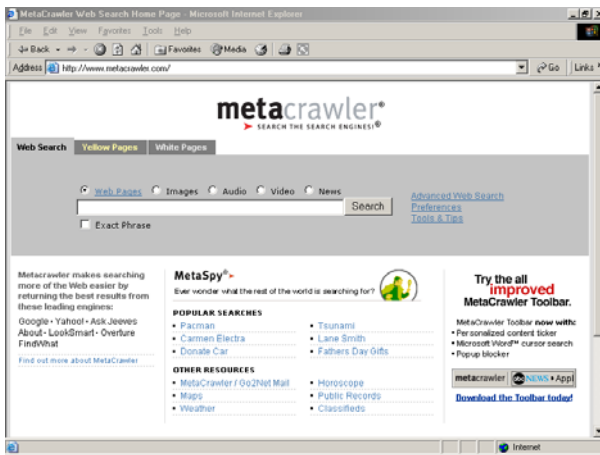
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## Meta-Search

DogPile: <http://www.dogpile.com>



Metacrawler: <http://www.metacrawler.com>



**Student oriented search tools** - Use these engines to limit the access to material with adult content or to academic based information. These may be very helpful in instructional settings, but may also limit the response based on the findings within the material.

Kids Click - <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick> - A super site for students to use for searching

Yahooligans - <http://www.yahooligans.com> - Combines a friendly interface with safe results.

Searchopolis: <http://www.searchopolis.com> Based on the Excite engine, this site returns student safe material.

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AskJeeves for Kids: <http://www.ajkids.com>

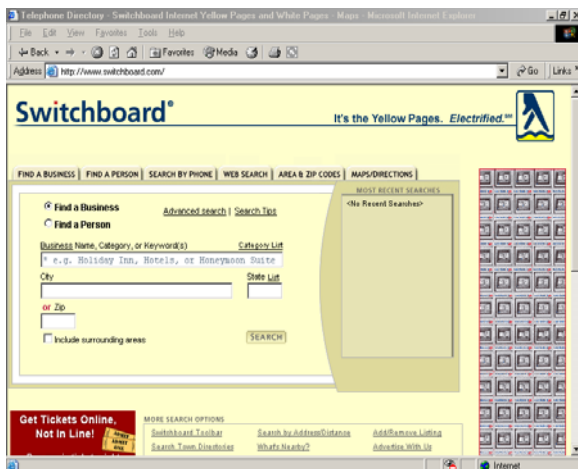


**Subject Guides** may be very helpful in instructional settings.

MathSearch <http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/MathSearch.html>

Specialized Databases provided access to specific types of information

Switchboard <http://www.switchboard.com> Find individuals and businesses listed across the U.S.



AnyWho <http://www.anywho.com> - Search for people around the country.

Teachers.Net <http://www.teachers.net> A collection of lesson plans, employment listings and hundreds of links to education-related [Web sites](#).

## SEARCHING STRATEGIES USING ALTAVISTA.COM

1. Never use one word for a search. Use quotes for phrases. If you really want to find fiction stories (and not just pages with those words) put the phrase inside quotation marks. The search

"fiction stories" -science



"types of poetry" +haiku

will yield many fewer hits. It will be more manageable.

2. Use the "+" and the "-" operators between words or phrases (Boolean search) Prefix your search words with the "+" to indicate that they MUST occur in a page to be considered a hit, and use "-" to exclude pages. For example

"Haiku poetry" +flowers



will find only pages that contain Haiku poetry including [flowers](#). By adding an exclusion term as shown below, the number of hits drops will be greatly reduced.

"fiction stories" -science

3. You can also exclude a website or an entire domain from a search by requesting a specific domain.

"types of poetry" +haiku +domain:edu (if you only want sites that end in "edu")

This example eliminates all documents from an entire domain (commercial), and the addition of other domains eliminates those as well.

(or you can exclude domains)

"Haiku poetry" -domain:net -domain:org

#### 4. Use the "host" and "domain" keywords

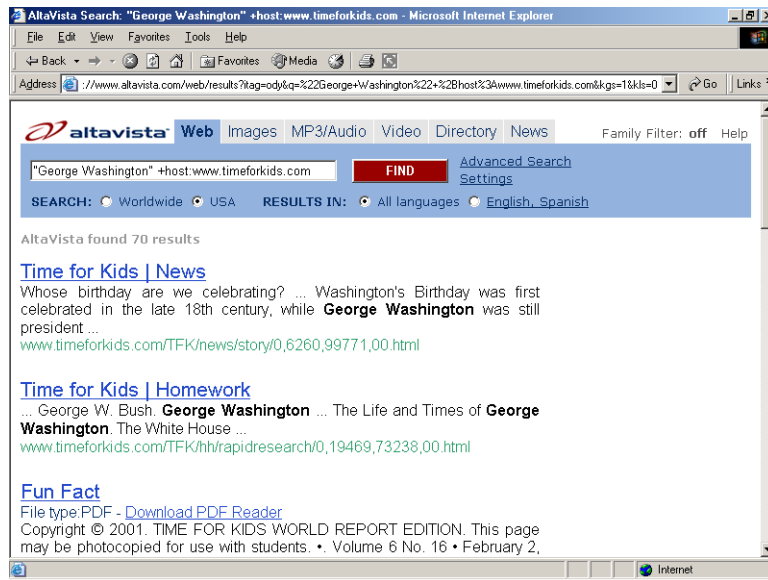
Try looking for a specific word or word at just one website by using a search like this:

(no space after host)

"George Washington" +host:www.timeforkids.com

"George Washington" +host:www.whitehouse.gov

This will find articles about George Washington published only at the Time For Kids website.

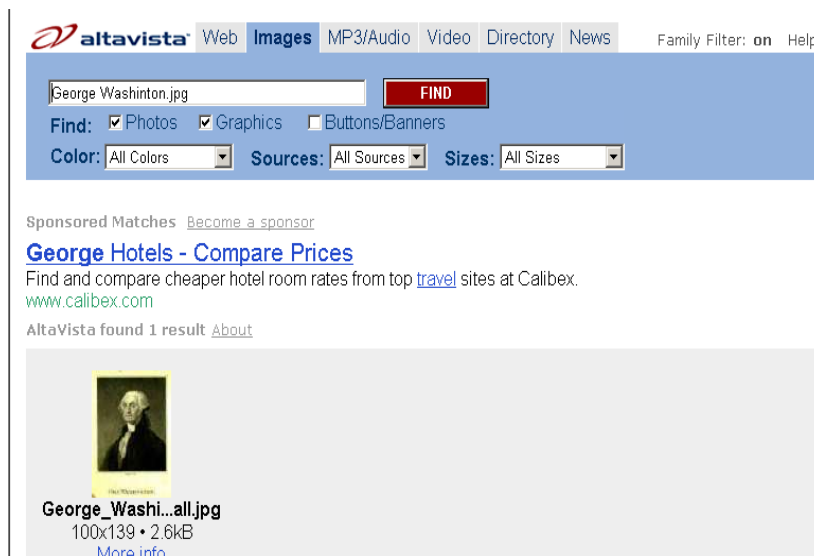


#### 5. Use the "image" key word

Looking for a special photo or icon? Try something like this:

image: George Washinton.jpg

or click the "image" tab at the top of the Search Engine to request images



6. Use the "title" keyword if you're looking for pages on a specific topic, instead of pages that just contain certain words, try limiting your search to: (no space after title)

title:"types of poetry"

This often helps to weed out unwanted hits. The fact that someone bothered to categorize their page with a <TITLE> keyword should help you get better quality matching documents. Of course, some words will be specific to get results.

7. The "url" keyword finds pages with specific characters in the address. Here are some examples:

url: language arts worksheets - finds pages with "language arts worksheet" in the address

url: algebra lesson plans – find pages with "algebra lesson plans" in the address

8. Use the "link" and "URL" keyword

The "link" keyword finds pages that contain a link to another page, and

link: schoollink.org/twin - finds pages linked to Sheila Gersh's website

url: worksheet - finds pages with "worksheet" in the address

## 9. Multimedia Searches

Searching for specific forms of multimedia on the [Internet](#) is relatively easy. In addition to identifying your major topic or theme, consider adding the file extension type to your search. For example, to locate a sound file for a wolf you might use

+wolf.wav

The extensions used for the various media formats may include:

text

.txt,.htm,.html

Audio

.au, .aiff,  
.wav,  
.midi,  
.mp3, ra

images

.gif, .jpg, .tiff, .bmp

Video

.mov,  
mpg,  
.movie,  
.moov,  
.avi, .rm

Test your browser's ability to handle various formats at:

<http://www.uncwil.edu/tc/mmttest>