

Research-quality Web Searching:

- Search Google effectively and precisely
- Know when to use other search engines and web directories

Searching Google

- Think “full text” = be specific
war of 1812 economic causes vs. **history**

- Use academic & professional terms
domestic architecture vs. **houses**

genome society

gets *International Mammalian Genome Society*

also try combinations with

association, research center, institute, directory, database

- Specify exact phrases
“bill gates”
“plant diversity”

Exclude or require a word

fish reproduction -dolphins

fish reproduction +mouth breeder

Capitalization does not matter, but “AND, OR, NOT, AND NOT” must be capital

fish OR fishes

glucose AND Krebs cycle

Limit your search to ...

- Web page | **Why go beyond Google?**
intitle:hybrid cars
- Website
site:edu “global warming”
- File type
filetype:ppt site:edu “global warming”
- Definitions
define:osmoregulation
define: "global warming"

Google's other databases

Images, Maps, News, Blogs, Books, Scholar, etc.

- Search more of the web
Yahoo! -- search.yahoo.com
- Get more options in results
Ask.com -- www.ask.com

Information found from Google may not be correct:

- Anyone can put up a web page
- Many pages not updated
- No quality control
- Look at the URL - personal page or site ?
- Domain name appropriate for the content ?
Restricted: **edu, gov, mil,**
Unrestricted: **com, org, net,**
- Can you tell who wrote it ?
name of page author
organization, institution, agency you recognize
- Credentials for the subject matter ?
Look for links to:
“About us” “Philosophy” “Background” “Biography”
- Is it recent or current enough ?
Look for **“last updated”** date

General Subject Directories:

www.google.com/dirhp
www.about.com
dir.yahoo.com
www.ipl.org/youth/searching
vlib.org

Finding people:

people.yahoo.com