Tools & Tips for Searching the Web

Step 1: What kind of information do you need to find?

Is the internet likely to be an appropriate source of information for your topic?

The Web can be a good source for:	 News and current events Government information Company or product information
Miles ((Trees 2)) XXI also in our delegance of the control of the	Information related to popular culture
The "Free" Web is not always a good source	Copyrighted articles and books
for:	 Web versions of traditional print
	sources
	 Databases and indexes
	Some types of primary sources and
	historical data

Step 2: Begin your research at the Library

Good starting points include	The Library Website
Good starting points include	The Library Website
	Stop by the Circulation Desk
	E-mail us
	(deb.syvertson@dakotacollege.edu)
	The Library Website:
	Books, CD-ROMs, and
	information about the journals,
	magazines, and newspapers to
	which we subscribe
	Databases:
	Articles in journals, magazines,
	and newspapers Health and
	Wellness Center and Academic
	Search Premier
	 Virtual Reference Shelf
	Found on "Other Electronic
	Links"

Step 3: Use a Web Directory

If you don't find what you need at the Library Website, consider using a Web directory for locating information.

Tips on using Web directories:	 Directories are best for broad topics or for locating information about popular subjects. Many directories are compiled by
--------------------------------	---

	human beings, not by computers, so your search results are more likely to be relevant. • Directories are smaller than search engines, so they are not always the best choices for narrowly-defined topics.
Good starting points include:	 Librarian's Index to the Internet InfoMine Google Scholar Britannica Online

Step 4: Use a Search Engine

Do you need more information? Try using a search engine.

Tips on using search engines:	 Search engines can be helpful when you are looking for information on a very narrow topic because they index more pages than directories. You will retrieve more pages with a search engine, but not all of the pages will be relevant. No search engine indexes the Web comprehensively. Search Tips: Choose the most specific terms possible ("Jack Russell terriers" instead of "dogs") Enclose phrases in quotation marks "cold war" Mark required words with a plus sign (+) Exclude words by inserting a minus sign (-) Don't forget to read the "Help" screens IF you don't find useful information within the first 20-40 hits, revise your search or use a different search engine.
Good starting points include:	 Google

Search engines for US Government information FirstGov
Metasearch engines:
Vivismo
EZ2Find
Webcrawler

Step 6: Evaluate What you Find

Be sure to evaluate the information you glean from the Web. This is an important step in the research process!