LIBRARY VS. INTERNET

LIBRARIAN:
SOPHISTICATED
INTELLIGENT
ORGANIZED

INTERNET:
WILD
UNORGANIZED
UNPREDICTABLE

THE INTERNET IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A LIBRARY.

THE LIBRARY OFFERS ORGANIZED ACCESS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CIVILIZATION.

IN COMPARISON, THE INTERNET IS THE WILD, WILD, WEST!

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIBRARIES AND THE INTERNET

QUALITY:
EDITORS, PUBLISHERS, PEER-REVIEWERS, + LIBRARIANS DO QUALITY CONTROL CHECKS

THESE PEOPLE ARE UNLIKELY TO INVEST TIME AND MONEY INTO LOW-QUALITY INFORMATION.
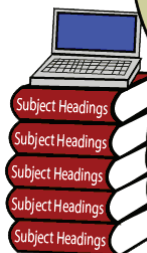
QUALITY:
NO ONE DOES QUALITY CONTROL ON THE INTERNET, SO ANYONE CAN PUBLISH THERE.

QUALITY RESEARCH IS MIXED WITH BIASED AND OUTRIGHT WRONG INFORMATION.

ORGANIZATION:
A LOT OF TIME, ENERGY, AND EXPERTISE IS PUT INTO ORGANIZING A LIBRARY SO THAT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AGAIN.

LIBRARIANS ARE EXPERTS IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE ORGANIZATION SYSTEM.

ORGANIZATION:
THERE IS NO ORGANIZATION ON THE INTERNET.

IN ADDITION, THE SEARCH TOOLS ARE MUCH HARDER TO CONTROL.

CONTENT ON THE WEB IS ALWAYS CHANGING, GROWING, OR DISAPPEARING. THIS MEANS SOMETHING YOU CITE MAY NOT BE THE SAME (OR EVEN EXIST) IF YOUR READER WANTS TO SEE IT LATER. THIS CAN MAKE YOU LOSE CREDIBILITY.
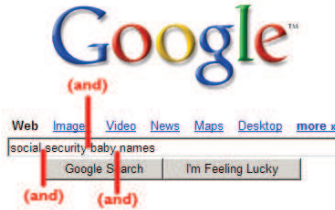
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LET'S TALK ABOUT INTERNET SEARCHING A LITTLE MORE...

Subject Headings

WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, YOU'RE USING BOOLEAN OPERATORS WHEN YOU SEARCH GOOGLE...

GOOGLE AUTOMATICALLY INSERTS THE WORD "AND" BETWEEN ALL KEYWORDS

Google™

(and)

Web   Image   Video   News   Maps   Desktop   more »
social security baby names
Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

(and)   (and)

IT ALSO SEARCHES THE FULL WEB PAGE, NOT JUST THE TITLE, ABSTRACT, AND SUBJECT TERMS.

THIS MEANS YOUR WORDS ARE LESS LIKELY TO RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER, LET ALONE THE MAIN POINT OF THE DOCUMENT.

TIP:
ENCLOSE SEARCH PHRASES IN QUOTATION MARKS.

"snowden library"

Search

1. SNOWDEN LIBRARY, LYCOMING COLLEGE
WWW.LYCOMING.EDU/LIBRARY

2. SNOWDEN LIBRARY WINES
WWW.SNOWDENVINEYARDS.COM

3. COLLEGE TOWN CALENDAR
WWW.COLLEGETOWNPA.ORG/CA

REMEMBER: RESULTS ARE **NOT** LISTED IN RELEVANCE OR CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

NOT EVERYTHING IS ON THE WEB... SOME ESTIMATES SAY AS LITTLE AS **20%** OF INFORMATION ON ANY GIVEN TOPIC.

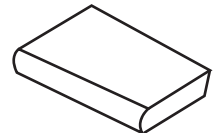IN ADDITION, SEARCH ENGINES CAN ONLY REACH ABOUT **10%** OF WHAT IS ON THE WEB.

WHAT'S LEFT IS OFTEN CALLED "THE **INVISIBLE WEB**"

WHAT SEARCH ENGINES CAN FIND

IMAGES + CHARTS; PASSWORD-PROTECTED + SUBSCRIPTION INFO; DATABASE-DRIVEN WEB SITES (I.E. PUBMED); FILE TYPES NOT RECOGNIZED

WHAT SEARCH ENGINES CAN'T FIND

FOR THE MOST PART, ONLY BOOKS PUBLISHED BEFORE 1925 APPEAR ON THE INTERNET, NEWER ONES ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

THE DATABASES OFFER ADVANCED FEATURES TO CONSTRUCT MORE EFFICIENT SEARCHES AND OFFER ACCESS TO QUALITY MATERIALS PAID FOR BY YOUR LIBRARY.

BUT THE INTERNET IS VERY GOOD FOR THE FOLLOWING:

-LATEST NEWS
-TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION
-LISTSERVS AND E-MAIL
-GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
-DIGITAL REPRODUCTIONS OF PRIMARY RESOURCES

WE BOTH HAVE OUR USES, SO USE US WISELY!