

INTERNET RESEARCH TIPS

URLs When you find information on the Web, don't forget to make note of the resource's address or URL (Universal Resource Locator) so you can find it again! When you know a URL you can go directly to that resource by typing it in the browser address box.

- Components of the URL will give you a hint as to what kind of web site you are accessing. Ex:

.edu	(as in www.dtcc.edu)	educational institution
.com	(as in www.barnesandnoble.com)	commercial firms, business
.org		general non-commercial organization
.net		computer networks
.gov	(as in www.census.gov)	government agencies
.us		United States (similar abbreviations for other countries)
- A personal web page frequently has a tilde (~) embedded in the URL.

*****Reliable information can usually be found in Web sites at: .edu, .gov and .org**

For information on evaluating web sites see: <http://www.library.dtcc.edu/wilmlib/Evalquest.html>

The **URL** for the Delaware Tech Library Services Page is **<http://www.library.dtcc.edu/>** It is found in the address box at the top of the web page.



WAYS TO SEARCH THE WEB—Search engines and subject directories

Search engine- a large database of web sites that allows you to type in what you are looking for and gives you a list of results (or “hits”).

- ❖ Many engines use free-text indexing--search terms are looked for anywhere in the document yielding lots of hits, many of which are irrelevant or only marginally related to the topic.
- ❖ Each engine has unique search options--best to use the help button for info about use of +, -, *, Boolean operators (NOT, AND, OR), etc.
- ❖ No one engine can search the whole Internet at once. Most only cover 25%. If one engine doesn't yield satisfactory results, try another, or try a meta-search engine (i.e. one that searches multiple engines at once).
- ❖ Information found by search engines usually has not been reviewed and cannot necessarily be considered scholarly.
- ❖ Best used for searching specific bits of information or facts. Examples of search engines are: Google (<http://www.google.com/>), and Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com/>). To use multiple search engines at once, try a meta-search engine such as: Dogpile (<http://dogpile.com>)

Subject Directories and Guides- lists of Web sites organized by topic. Colleges often create web subject guides for their students. **Delaware Tech Libraries** provide subject guides in our **Tech Topics** (http://www.library.dtcc.edu/resource_data/resource_pages/tech.html) and **Hot Topics** (http://www.library.dtcc.edu/resource_data/resource_pages/hot.html)

- ❖ Best used for topic browsing and to find out what type of information is available in a particular subject area.
- ❖ Sites have been chosen and sometimes rated and reviewed by human beings, who have expertise in a subject area.

ACCESSING THE INTERNET FOR RESEARCH

Go to the **Library Services** page (<http://library.dtcc.edu/>), then **Student Resources** (<http://www.library.dtcc.edu/wilmlib/student.html>)



CAMPUS LIBRARIES

- Owens Library
- Terry Library
- Stanton Library
- Wilmington Library
- Value of Learning about the Library
- Library Mission Statement
- Collegewide Info
- Search Delaware Tech
- DTCC Home Page
- Site Outline

ONLINE RESOURCES

- [Delaware Library Catalog](#)
Search for Delaware Tech books & more
- [Online Databases](#)
Including periodical indexes & more (off-campus access)
- [Information Literacy](#)
TILT, BlackBoard Modules & more
- [Student Resources](#)
Subject guides & more

Click Student Resources for Tech Topics and Hot Topics, (subject guides chosen by Delaware Tech Librarians), Pathfinders and more.



Delaware Technical & Community College Libraries

Student Resources

Delaware Tech Guides

- [Subject Guides](#) (Pathfinders)
- [Tech Topics](#)
Websites selected by Delaware Tech Librarians on Delaware Tech technology topics.
- [Hot Topics](#)
Websites selected by Delaware Tech Librarians on topics of current interest.

For subject guides listed by Delaware Tech technologies.

For subject guides listed by popular topics. Good for term paper ideas.



Other examples of subject directories and guides are: Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://lii.org/>) and INFOMINE (<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>)

Want to learn more? Try one of these online tutorials on using the Internet:

- ❖ From University at Albany Libraries excellent tutorials on basic Internet, research guides, search engines/subject directories, browsers and more: <http://library.internettutorials.net/>
- ❖ From Search Engine Watch a list of search engine tutorials: <http://www.searchenginewatch.com/resources/tutorials.html>