



Searching the Web
WIT 2001 Homeroom Module
By: Rowena Namoca



SEARCH ENGINES

Huge databases containing web page files comprise search engines. These web page files are maintained by machines that assemble them and allow them to be accessed later on. When you use search engines to look up the information that you want, you're asking the engine to peruse its index of sites and match the keywords and phrases that you have entered.

Because search engines have access to a fairly large portion of different pages on the Web, it is one of the best ways that you can use to search the web. On the other hand, search engines index words in such a way that it can be quite common for you to receive irrelevant responses to simple search requests.

When should you use search engines? Search engines work best at finding unique words, phrases, quotes, and information buried in the full text of web pages. If you want to receive a lot of "hits" from the search you requested, use search engines.

Examples of Search Engines:

AltaVista: <http://www.altavista.com>

Excite: <http://www.excite.com>

Fast Search: <http://www.alltheweb.com/>

Google: <http://www.google.com>

To see how search engines work, complete this activity:

Select any two of the the search engines suggested above and search for:

Missouri compromise

Now, try searching for the same subject as a phrase, enclosed in quotes:

"Missouri compromise"

Is there a difference in the search results that you received?