

## HOW TO SEARCH THE INTERNET

### Connecting to a URL

If you have a specific URL address use the following directions:

1. Highlight the part of the address that you don't need in "Location" OR click the cursor at the end of the address and press delete until you are at www.
2. Type in the address you want.
3. Do not put in unnecessary spaces, check spelling, and make sure you capitalize only when you need to.
4. Click on return

### Search Engines

If you do not know a specific address, you may want to use a search engine.

1. Click on Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer to start your web browser.
2. Click on the URL in the location box to highlight it so you can replace the text.
3. Type in the URL of one of the following search engines.

google.com – this is a very comprehensive search engine that will give you lots of hits, sometimes too many

yahooligans.com – this site is for children and will give you easy to read sites. The downside is you may get very few hits.

yahoo.com – a well-known search engine that will give you lots of hits

dogpile.com – this is a meta-search engine which means that it is a search engine that searches many search engines.

altavista.com – a sophisticated search engine that may give you more variety of hits.

1. Next click in the search box to activate it.
2. Type in the word or subject that you want to search.
3. Use Boolean Search methods to help with searching.
4. Hit return or click on search.
5. Choose and click on a link that looks useful.

**DO NOT ASSUME EVERYTHING YOU READ ON THE INTERNET IS RELIABLE.**

Think about stories you might read about in the Star or the Enquirer. Stories similar to this may be found on the Internet. Use the following guidelines to evaluate your resources:

#### **Credibility**

Is it from an authoritative source? Is the author connected to a well-known institution? Is it someone's personal web page?

#### **Accuracy**

Is it a source that is correct today and gives the whole truth? Can you find similar information on other sites?

#### **Reasonableness**

Does the source engage the topic thoughtfully and reasonably? Trust your instincts. Does it seem to make sense?

#### **Support**

Does the source provide convincing evidence for the claims made? Try to understand if they are facts or opinions.