

Library Helpsheet



Using Search Engines and Metasearch Engines

The internet is vast. So many pages are available that you would find it difficult to find information without the help of a **search or metasearch engine**.



Search engines are tools which help you find information on the internet by indexing billions of web pages, and using **keywords** to locate relevant information which is presented in a results list.

Some search engines provide a **directory** to allow you to search by category i.e. refine your search before you start.

Metasearch engines do not search the web themselves to build results lists – instead they send searches to several search engines at once, then **blend** the results into one list.

Listed below are the main search and metasearch engines – however, it is **not all** of those available:

Search engines	URL	Metasearch engines	URL
AOL	www.aol.co.uk	Dogpile	www.dogpile.com
Ask.com	uk.ask.com	Metacrawler	www.metacrawler.com
Bing	www.bing.com	Mamma	www.mamma.com
Google	www.google.co.uk	Search	www.search.com
Yahoo	uk.yahoo.com	Yippy	yippy.com

To access a search engine, you need to input the correct **URL** (web address) which will take you to the main search screen – the homepage. These are listed above.



Try all the search engines or metasearch engines to find your favourite!

Remember – when using the internet, it is for your class work. If the results you get are not relevant with a simple search, then use a different search term, or use the helpsheet on *Using Google Effectively* to refine your search.

Warning! ANYONE can publish on the internet, so **evaluate** all information before using it.

Remember RAT for evaluating all sources of information:

R Relevant – what I need

A Accurate – what I expected and find the same information in other sites

T Trust – is the source reliable, unbiased, current, and is it fact or opinion