

Research: The 4th R

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Gaining control, if not mastery, of efficient Internet research is critical to achieving informational literacy for teachers and students. The Internet's constant growth and change necessitate periodic renewal of research skills.

Agenda

Proactive steps that can help students develop their research skill

1. Articulate expectations
2. Clarify teacher-imposed limitations
3. Simplify the citation process
4. Provide JIT tools
5. Provide on-going search training
6. Emphasize evaluation of web sites
7. Provide ongoing and independent assessment of research process

According to Bergman (2001), "Two-thirds to three-quarters of all users cite the inability to find the information they seek as one of their primary frustrations."

1. Clearly articulate requirements & expectations

Planning the search consists of:

- knowing what they are looking for
- developing key words
- knowing where to look
-

2. Teachers should clearly define references to be used with caution

~myname

Geocities, Tripod, Angelfire

.org ??

3. Simplify the citation process

Citation Machine

<http://www.oslis.k12.or.us/secondary/howto/cited/>

Turnitin.com

Instantly identifies papers containing unoriginal material

Powerful deterrent to stop student plagiarism before it starts.

Questia

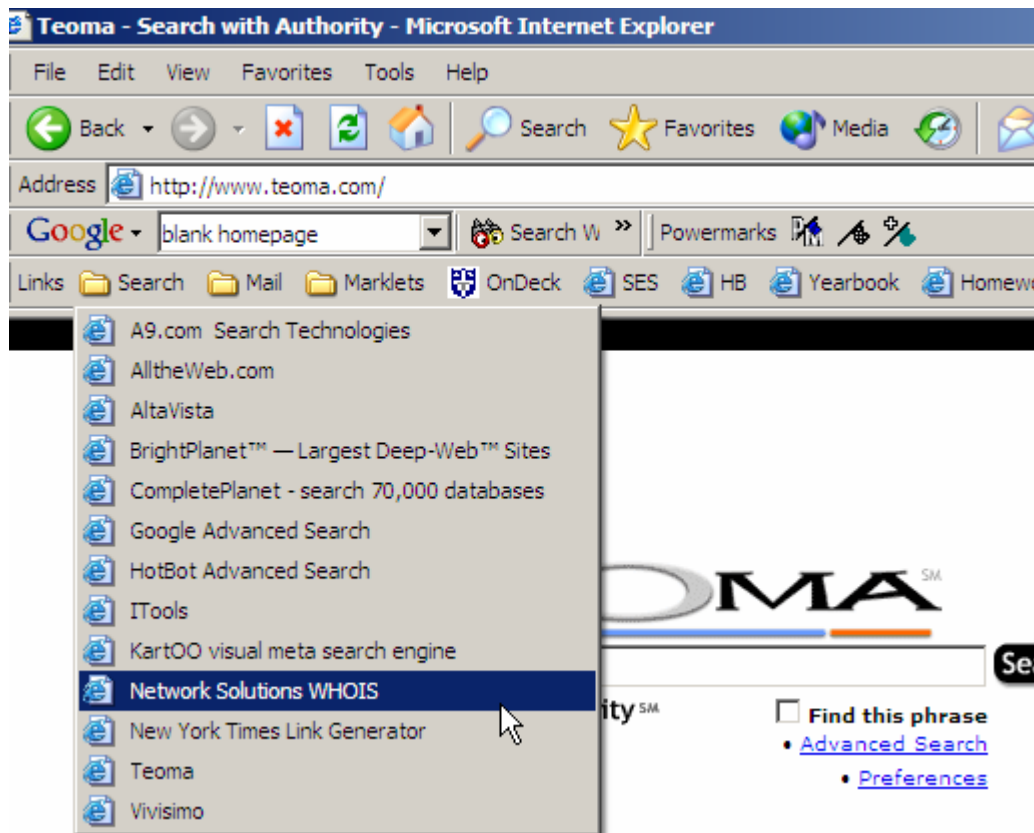
- Over 50,000 books and 400,000 journal, magazine, and newspaper articles
- Provides entire books and articles searchable in their entirety.
- Provides credible content not found anywhere else on the Internet.

4. Provide convenient access to portals, databases and search engines

Provide a centralized site for all research links and training, such as an Academic Intranet site

The screenshot shows a website titled "ON DECK" with a navigation bar containing links for Home Port, OnDeck, Calendar, Faculty, My Mailbox (At School), and My Mailbox (At Home). Below the navigation bar, there is a section for "Research Resources" with links to eLibrary, Oposing Viewpoints Resource Center (Gale), Public Library Databases, and History Resource Center: United States (Gale). To the right of the Research Resources section, there is a weather widget showing 74 F and a "Showcase" section with links to MS Top 10 Reading List, Featured Site (Global Gateway: World Cultures & Resources), and The Writing Lab (US Style Guide, Avoiding Plagiarism, Documenting Sources, Investigating a Site, Citation Machine, Portfolio Format Sheet). On the left side of the page, there is a vertical menu with links for Library Catalog, Databases, Online Resources, New Books, Library Pix, IRC Library, Lab Schedule, Crew Webs, Officer Webs, Student Officers, ExCel Zoom, ExCEL, and MS RWT.

Utilize the Links Bar – provide folder(s) for search engines, databases



Create the search engine folder in the Links subfolder of Favorites. Entries for students might include:

- Dir.Google
- CompletePlanet
- Google Advanced
- Whois
- Teoma
- Vivisimo
- Yahoo Directory

5. Provide guidelines for the search: The stance to internalize

1. Identify key concepts and key words: Paraphrase what is being sought
2. Tune the search argument (synonym hunt): Books, synonyms.com, encyclopedia (help develop the argument)
3. Choose the search tool: Use databases, if applicable
 - i. Decide between se, directory, or metacrawler
 - ii. Is it something someone is looking for everyday?
 - iii. Are you casting a wide or narrow net?

4. Keep searching > if not in the top 10, reconfigure the search
5. Evaluate the resources

Basic Searching

1. Plus and minus
2. Quotes
–Not “John Kennedy” (you will John Fitzgerald Kennedy sites)
3. Tilde
a. ~paintings like a wildcard
4. Boolean – must be capitalized
5. Stop Words (ignored by Google)

I	from	was
a	how	what
about	in	when
an	is	where
are	it	who
as	la	will
at	of	with
be	on	und
by	or	the
com	that	www
de	the	
en	this	
for	to	

Power Searching

- inURL:www.aect.org
- inTitle:”Internet Explorer”
- Link:www.steds.org
(who links to this site)
- Site:Nasa:xx
or “skates” –site:com
- Related:lynda.com (similar sites)
- Cached (for bad links)

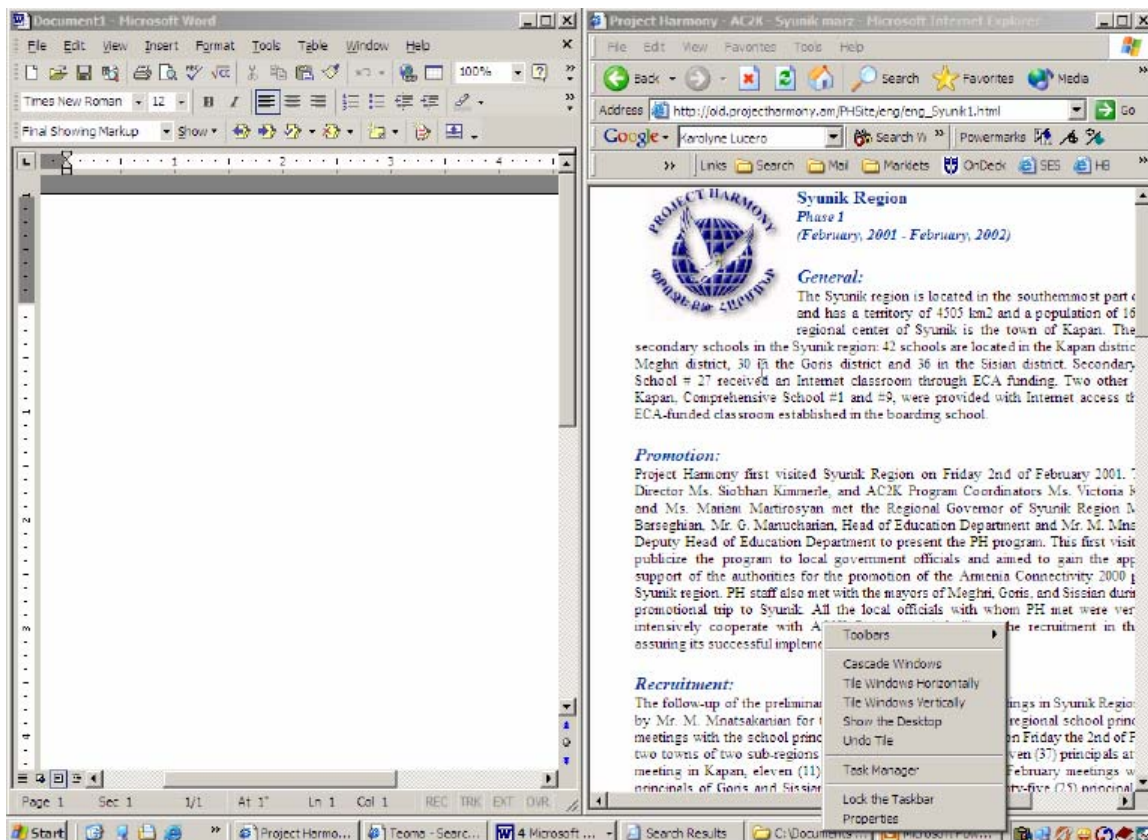
Google Extras

- Define:xxx
- Spelling and synonyms
- Calculator (www.googleguide.com/calculator.html)

- Phonebook
- Dir:google.com (same as Open Directory Project – twice the sites of Yahoo)

Note-taking Tip

1. Open Word and your browser
2. Right-click on the Windows Task Bar > Tile Vertically



6. Teach skills to evaluate the validity of resources

- Who owns the site
- Why was it created
- When was it most recently updated
- Who links to it?

Information Literacy = A new basic skill – Grammar of the internet

- The internet is a place where you can find ‘proof’ of essentially any belief system that you can imagine.
- Many students believe everything they read, and they rely heavily on the internet for research.
- We all need to critically evaluate the information we find on the internet.

<http://pubweb.northwestern.edu/~abutz/di/intro.html>

**A short introduction to the study of Holocaust revisionism,
by Arthur R. Butz.**

I see three principal reasons for the widespread but erroneous belief in the legend of millions of Jews killed by the Germans during World War II: US and British troops found horrible piles of corpses in the west German camps they captured in 1945 ..., there are no longer large communities of Jews in Poland, and historians generally support the legend. During both world wars Germany was forced to fight typhus, carried by lice ... That is why all accounts of entry into the German concentration camps speak of shaving of hair and showering and other delousing procedures, such as treatment of quarters with the pesticide Zyklon. That was also the main reason for a high death rate in the camps, and the crematoria ...

Article published in the *Daily Northwestern* of May 13, 1991, corrected May 14.

What can the URL tell me?

<http://pubweb.northwestern.edu/~abutz/di/intro.html>

This is a personal page – how can you tell?

- “Pubweb”
 - Also look for: % signs, “users”, “members”, or “people”.
- Personal Web pages created by using Tripod, Geocities, or Angel Fire, or other ISPs (ex: aol.com)
- A tilde ~ symbol indicates a personal web (of abutz)

What else can we tell?

- Northwestern Univ. owns the domain name “nwu.edu”
- .edu indicates it is a college

Use Link: webaddress to determine who links to a page.

Use Whois to determine who owns the domain?

Trim the URL - one way around bad links

7. “Assess” research in steps

1. Have references submitted prior to paper
2. Teach the PrintScreen command
 - a. Collect and grade research attempts in the same manner as preliminary notes
3. Take time to spot check references
4. Consider Turnitin.com

8. Focus research process with Inspiration

- Brainstorm search concepts and key words
- Note taking
- Writing
- URLs

9. Review search engines periodically

Search Engine Watch

<http://searchenginewatch.com/facts/>

10. Encourage Recreational Searching

- Hoaxes, unfactual sites
- Search the Book – A9.com
- Froogle
- Reverse phone lookups, people searching
- PowerMarks

Sources

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Evaluating Web Pages – UC Berkeley

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

Bernie Dodge. Four Nets for Better Searching.

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Search Engine Watch <http://searchenginewatch.com/facts/>

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