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## Hands-on #5: Search Engines & Subject Directories

**Due:** Wednesday, November 10, 1999 **Assigned:** Wednesday, November 3, 1999

**Points:** 50

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### Purpose

- To become familiar with a wide variety of Internet subject directories and search engines
- To acquire and fine search techniques and methods in using these directories and engines.

### Instructions

Read the questions carefully and thoroughly. Part I asks you to search Internet subject directories. Part II asks you to search Internet search engines and Part III requests you to focus on finding sources for your final project topic.

### Part 1: Subject Directories

1. Use the Argus Clearinghouse, <http://www.clearinghouse.net>, to find a subject guide on **Archaeology in the Near East**. When was the subject guide last updated?

URL of subject guide:

Title of subject guide:

Last update:

2. Find three web pages, including one critical review, that discuss the classic **1941 film, Citizen Kane** by using InfoSeek <http://www.infoseek.com>. How did you formulate the search (i.e., what was your search strategy)? Note with an asterisk (\*) the title and URL of the critical review.

Search Strategy:

1st URL & Title:

2nd URL & Title:

3rd URL & Title:

3. Use the Librarians' Index to the Internet, <http://lii.org> and look for the "**Blue Book**" for automobiles. Search by keyword search and also by browsing through the subject categories. Which method took longer (i.e., the most steps/mouse clicks/screen scrolling)? Which method do you prefer?

URL:

Title:

Longest method:

Preferred method:

4. Go to Yahoo! <http://www.yahoo.com> and browse the directory for a list of **homebrewer's organizations**. Don't search by keyword; drill down through the subject categories. Write down the top-level category and all the subcategories you clicked on to reach the list. HINT! The most effective method shows four category levels. I've listed six here because if you don't choose the correct top level, it takes a bit longer to drill down.

Top Category:

Next Category:

Next Category:

Next Category:

Next Category:

Next Category:

## **Part 2: Search Engines**

1. Use three search engines to find out who said "**Time flies like an arrow**" and "**Fruit flies like a banana**". These two quotes are most often found next to each other. For each search engine, note the title and the URL of the first web site listed that has the complete answer (i.e., the quote and the person who said it).

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

URL:

Title:

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

URL:

Title:

HotBot at <http://www.hotbot.com>

URL:

Title:

2. Use both Altavista and Northern Light to find two relevant resources from each on **literary criticism of Jack London**. For both search engines, write down your search strategy/search statement, the title and urls for the two relevant sites. For both search engines note any problems you encountered or search modifications, note whether many of the results listed were similar in each search engine. Did you notice anything different with Northern Light? What's different?

Altavista at <http://altavista.digital.com>

Search Strategy:

1st Title:

1st URL:

2nd Title:

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2nd URL:

Problems/Comments:

Northern Light at <http://www.northernlight.com>  
Search Strategy:

1st Title:

1st URL:

2nd Title:

2nd URL:

Problems/Comments:

3. You are looking for **a picture of St. Catherine's Monastery, located in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt**. Try to find it in any of the major search engines on your lists (green and tan). Which search engine did you use? Write down the name of the search engine in which you found it and the search expression you used. Try to find some information about the monastery. What famous mountain is located there?

Search Engines used:

Search Engine that worked:

Search Strategy:

Info on monastery:

Famous mountain:

### **Part III: Your Final Project Topic**

Formulate one or several search strategies for your final project topic and choose at least one subject directory and two search engines to search. Conduct your search. List two web sites from each search engine and subject directory for a total of six web sites. Note your search strategy, your reason for choosing the subject directory/search engine, your reason for selecting the web site and any other comments.

**Subject Directory chosen & rationale:**

**Search Strategy:**

**Web Site #1 (title & URL):**

**Selection Rationale:**

**Web Site #2 (title & URL):**

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**Selection Rationale:**

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**Search Engine #1 chosen & rationale:**

**Search Strategy:**

**Web Site #1 (title & URL):**

**Selection Rationale:**

**Web Site #2 (title & URL):**

**Selection Rationale:**

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**Search Engine #2 chosen & rationale:**

**Search Strategy:**

**Web Site #1 (title & URL):**

**Selection Rationale:**

**Web Site #2 (title & URL):**

**Selection Rationale:**

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**Comments:**