

## **Introductions/Orientation/Getting Started**

This handout is available online at - <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/PDFfiles/jan29pd.pdf>

**Please bookmark this URL.**

## **Finding Good Resources**



Pushed for time? Look on the Online Learning Centre's Website (<http://olc.spsd.sk.ca>) for resources that meet your needs. We have already put considerable time in connecting with Saskatchewan curriculum objectives and evaluating the content for you.

There are lots of resources on the site and we have provided a Google search for you to quickly find what you need.



Please go to: <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca> and we will quickly show you how to find resources on this site.

## **Using Search Engines to Search the Entire WWW**

### **Useful definitions**

#### **Directories**

(Sample: [www.dmoz.com](http://www.dmoz.com) )

- Are organized and approved by a real person (makes changing it more work)
- Organized by categories and then topics
- Can narrow your search at the first stage by selecting your category and topic

#### **Search Engine**

(Sample [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com) [www.hotbot.com](http://www.hotbot.com) )

- Has no categories
- Uses keywords to search materials
- New materials added automatically, more often
- Each search engine operates differently, collects data differently and can yield different results

#### **Meta-Search Engine**

(Sample [www.Dogpile.com](http://www.Dogpile.com) , [www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com) , [www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com) )

- Searches multiple search engines at once and returns the results at the same time

## **Searching Tips**

Basic Boolean Operators Used to Narrow or Expand Web Searches- Use of Boolean operators will narrow the focus of a search. The more effectively you can use them, the better your search results.

- Search for **dogs and cats** – site must contain information about both dogs AND cats.
- Search for **dogs or cats** – site may contain information about dogs OR cats
- Search for **dogs and not cats** – site must contain information only about dogs; no site about cats AND NO sites about dogs and cats
- Using quotes, “**Mark Twain**” tell the search engine the words must go as a unit.
- **Keywords** – nutrition / **Synonyms** – healthy eating – sometimes the keyword you are using is not the one everyone else has used!



**Let's try searching!!**

### **Directories**

[www.dmoz.com](http://www.dmoz.com) (let's look for elementary science resources)

### **Search Engines**

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

science and lessons and cells and grade 7; science lessons and cells and middle years

[www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)

science and lessons and cells and grade 7; science lessons and cells and middle years

Each search engine can return different results – even when using the same search words. So if you don't find something, try another search engine.

### **Meta-Search Engines**

[www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

science and lessons and cells and grade 7

[www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com)

science and lessons and cells and grade 7

[www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com) ([www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com))

Where can I find science lessons on cells for grade 7

**Personal searching (20 minutes) and open discussion (10 mins)** – What did you learn? What worked? What didn't? Share your results.

### **Extensions**

- **Search Engines – Kid Friendly** - Go Kids (<http://kids.go.com>) - Adult newsfeeds – would you send your kids here? Why or why not?

<b>BREAK ----- 10:15-10:30</b>
--------------------------------

## **Found Resources – Now What? How Can I Tell If They Are Good?**

The Online Learning Centre has created a self guided tutorial for website evaluation. You can find it on the OLC's website - <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/wse/index.htm>

There are several formats of information that you encounter on the internet -- text, audio, image, and video formats – and each type of format requires a different evaluation process.



**Let's visit some websites and use some of our new skills to evaluate them.**

- Celebrate Saskatchewan – <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/de/saskatchewan100/>
- Brightwater Burning - <http://www.aliaradesign.com/bright>
- Genpets - <http://www.genpets.com/index.php>

**Discussion – What have you learned?**

### **Little Extras - Students and the Internet**

Our current generation is likely to not remember life without computers. However, do the majority of students possess enough knowledge and skill to make the most out of this resource?

**How do they go about gathering information, using technology, and thinking critically about the information they encounter?**

They live in a digital world. Their forms of communication are increasingly digital as well. They have MSN, ICQ, email, social networking sites, and live chat rooms. They can create videos, post images, write content, publish that content and reach across the world to make new friends. Often these sites offer an entire range of advertisements and much of the content might not be appropriate. Kids need to be aware!! There are various forms of Chats on the web – our school system blocks only some of them. One click on the wrong thing and off they go – we need to prepare them to deal with what they may encounter even in an “open” network.

## **Things to Think About**

<b>Benefit Of WWW</b>	<b>Questions</b>
Quick access to up-to-date information.	How do we know what is “good” information? How do we determine this?
Various formats of content available – images, text, audio, video	Each type of content requires a different evaluation process.
A creative outlet – students can create personal websites, journals, blogs, photo galleries	Safety and security issues How might what you do online today influence you in the future? Blog now – regret it later?
Students can acquire new skills that could be taken with them into other aspects of their lives.	How can these skills transfer to the workplace and personal lives of students for long term gain?
The range of resources and options students have access to on the Net is staggering.	Specific focus and guidance from the teacher is critical

## **How To Use Online Resources**

### **1. To support classroom activities/learning**

Many of the sites have teacher facilitated lesson plans and printable resources for students. By using a digital projector, Flash movies, interactive tours, graphing activities, and other multimedia items can be projected to the entire class. Interactive online learning activities are a great way to use that one computer or pod of computers in the classroom. These activities are also suitable for the mini or full computer lab, too. Online resources can be used to supplement current curriculum and also to provide enrichment or modification. You will find that they use a variety of instructional strategies and appeal to a variety of learning styles and needs.

### **2. To support students with their homework or learning beyond the classroom**

Send home online resources addresses connected to your classroom topics in your newsletters or list them on your classroom websites. Parents and students can explore the sites from home. Consider assigning these online resources for additional practice or as an enrichment activity.

### **3. To support professional development**

Professional development opportunities are available as online resources, tutorials and courses. Consider participating in short- or long-term online development work with the OLC team.

#### 4. Other Ways? Discussion



##### **Search and evaluate resources based on your own classroom needs.**

Please take the time now to apply your new search skills to locate resources and then evaluate them based on the criteria handout.

<b>Additional Resources to Support This Presentation</b>
--

##### **Finding Information**

- In order to save teachers valuable time, the *Literacy Matters* website has compiled the best sites within four distinct Internet categories: [Search Engines](#), [Web Directories](#), [Research and Reference Sites](#), and [Experts](#).
  - <http://www.literacymatters.org/content/research/find.htm>

##### **How to Search the Internet Effectively**

- Preparing for Searching - <http://www.learnwebskills.com/search/prepare.html>
- Media Awareness Network - [http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/special\\_initiatives/wa\\_resources/wa\\_teachers/tipsheets/search\\_internet\\_effectively.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/special_initiatives/wa_resources/wa_teachers/tipsheets/search_internet_effectively.cfm)
- Successful Web Searching Strategies – A Powerpoint Presentation - <http://kathyschrock.net/slideshows/searching.pdf>

##### **Website Evaluation Resources**

- Saskatchewan Learning – Website Evaluation Criteria [http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/curr\\_inst/iru/webeval.html](http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/curr_inst/iru/webeval.html)
- A great one page Website Evaluation Form - <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/wse/EvaluatingWebsites.pdf>
- Online Education Games (Media Awareness) – Use this to help educate your students. <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/games/index.cfm>
- Authenticating Information Online (Media Awareness): [http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/teachers/wa\\_teachers/fact\\_or\\_folly\\_teachers/index.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/teachers/wa_teachers/fact_or_folly_teachers/index.cfm)
- Website Evaluation - <http://kathyschrock.net/slideshows/abceval/frame0001.htm>