NoodleTools

🔍 Choose the Best Search for Your Information Need

Need additional search ideas? Try [NoodleQuest](#) (interactive version)

I need to define my topic...

I need to understand the **scope** of my topic	Intute	Investigate annotated academic sites ([advanced search](#))
	INFOMINE	Search annotated academic sites and subject databases ([advanced search](#))
	AcademicInfo Subject Guides	Browse subject guides with descriptions of relevant sites
I need to see **related** topics	Google	Uncover buried sites using "related searches"
	Bing	Search for your topic, then drill down "related searches"
I need to **refine and narrow** my topic	SurfWax	Search for your topic, then click "Focus" (top) to show similar, broader, and narrower topics
	iSeek Education	Ask a question or search a topic in this database of "trusted resources" - use "targets" to refine search
	Wikipedia	Drill down "Contents" to explore subtopics
I need to choose a **controversial issue**	Hot Topics (Google Custom Search)	Begin your search on selective hot topic sites
	IDEA Portal	Browse or search a debate topic database with pro/con arguments
	Glean Comparison Search	Build your pro/con search using comparative terms (K-12)
I need **background** on possible topics	SweetSearch	A selective search of Web information for students
	Wikipedia	Search this wiki (quality content is starred), then follow article links to more information
	Columbia Encyclopedia	Search basic factual information in this encyclopedia (c 2000)

I need to find quality results...

I need authoritative sites chosen by an **expert researcher**	INFOMINE	Librarian-selected scholarly sites
	LibGuides	Librarian-created topic pathfinders
	Infotopia	Customized safe-search of educator-selected sites

I need **personal help** from experts	Ask an ipl2 Librarian	Get answers from volunteers and grad students in a week (K-12)
	AllExperts	Ask your question of a self-identified volunteer subject-expert
	Ask a Librarian	Library research questions answered in five days (no homework questions)

I need sites **ranked or tagged** as valuable or relevant	Google	High PageRank means popular, relevant sites link to the page
	Technorati	Browse or search user-identified subjects ("tags") for blog advice or opinions
	Ask.com	High ExpertRank indicates subject-specific popularity

I need **primary** sources	American Memory	Locate documents, sound recordings, images, maps, and other American primary sources
	Ready, 'Net, Go!	Browse worldwide archival index
	Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web	Search for online exhibitions selected by Smithsonian librarians

| I need **peer-reviewed journal** articles | OpenJ-Gate | Search narrow term in open-access global journal literature (advanced search) |
| | Directory of Open Access Journals | Search by narrow term to find open access journal articles or browse a subject directory |

I need to do research in a specific discipline...

I need **official government information**	USA.gov	Search official U.S. government information and services
	Foreign Governments (Intl. Documents Coll., Northwestern U)	Alphabetical links to the official websites of national governments
	Directgov	Search or browse official UK information and services

| I need in-depth information **about a country** or unrepresented territory | CIA World Factbook | Search on keyword or select country or location name |
| | Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) | Browse Web sites from indigenous peoples, occupied nations, minorities and independent states or territories |

I need **science, technology engineering and mathematics** (STEM) research or sources	Scirus	Science-specific Web portals, reports, peer-reviewed articles, patents, preprints and journals
	National Science Digital Library (NSDL)	Search by grade level, subject (STEM) and resource format
	Intute	Use advanced search to limit search by science, technology, or mathematics subject areas

I need reputable **health** information	MedlinePlus	Search diseases, conditions and health topics
	Mayo Clinic	Browse by disease or search conditions, symptoms, tests and health topics
	KidsHealth	Health information directed to kids, teens or parents

| I need **legal** documents, agencies or news | FindLaw | Search cases and codes (U.S. federal and state), news and commentary |
| | Legal Information Institute | Search or browse wiki of worldwide legal information |

(Cornell U Law)

| State Legislative Websites Directory | Search database of U.S. state legislatures, DC and territories for home page, bills, press rooms, statutes, etc. |

I need **creative and performing arts** sources	Intute	Use advanced search to limit search to arts and humanities subject areas
	Art History Resources on the Web	Global art history resources chosen by a scholar
	JURN	Google custom search of 3,500+ ejournals in the arts and humanities

The timeliness of information that I need is...

| within the last hour | Google Real-Time | Choose "past hour" from the left column for the most recent news |
| | 10x10 | Explore 100 words and pictures that "matter most" globally in the last hour |

today	Google News	View top news stories and refine by category or topic
	NewsNow	Search breaking global news headlines or newsfeeds (UK service)
	Newseum	Browse today's front page treatment of news from nearly 100 countries

| recent | Google | Search and limit by time period, or choose "timeline" (from "more search tools" on left) to see a topic's evolution |
| | Yahoo News | Search recent news and filter by time period ("past week") |

recent (with analysis)	BBC Special Reports	In-depth topic coverage including news features, analysis, photos, audio and video
	Times Topics	Collected news, reference and archival information, photos, graphics, audio and video files about topics
	PolitiFact	Search news keyword or browse fact checking of statements made by members of Congress, the White House, lobbyists and interest groups

long-term investigative reports	ProPublica	News investigations of significant government, business, and institutional wrongdoing
	Center for Public Integrity	Original reporting of public issues designed to make "institutional power more transparent and accountable"
	Center for Investigative Reporting	Critical investigations of injustice or abuse of power with actionable information to assist citizens

a particular time period (decade, century, era)	HistoryWorld	Enter year event to retrieve timeline, then click on icons for information or images
	INFOMINE	Search by a term like "Golden Age" or "18th century"
	Wikipedia: List of Timelines	Browse Wikipedia's list of timelines (civilizations, people, events, etc.)

| historical | American Memory | Search America's primary source documents and images, browse by topic, time period, medium or place |
| | ipl2 | Drill down into the history section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "terrorists" not "Righteous Path") |

| Digital History | High-quality historical resources, primary sources, multimedia, subject guides |

| ancient | Ancient History Sourcebook | Search online ancient-history texts, images, audio, or browse by region, period (e.g., Persia, Late Antiquity) |
| | ipl2 | Drill down into ancient history section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "Greece" not "Spartan women") |

I need facts...

a person	Biography.com	Search 25,000+ biographies by name, keyword and profession
	Who2	Search for famous people with "four good links" to more information
	Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online	Search biographies from Canada's history (16th-20th century)

a place	CIA World Factbook	Select country for basic profile and transnational issues
	Country Studies	Cross-search or view a country (last update 1998) - historical, social, economic, political and national security data
	Stately Knowledge	Basic U.S. state facts, links to state government site and encyclopedia (IPL KidSpace)

| a company | NYPL: Searching for Company Information | Find company information based on your need |

general reference answers	Ask.com	Find a fact, biography, statistic or conversion, or reference answer
	Columbia Encyclopedia	Find basic information
	Yahoo	Learn shortcut words to get quick answers

news background (facts, people, and documents)

I need opinions and perspectives...

I want **opinions** on current issues	HeadlineSpot Opinion/Editorials	Browse opinion/editorial in U.S. and some international newspapers
	PollingReport	Browse results of U.S. public opinion surveys
	Issues & Press (U.S. Dept. of State)	Investigate U.S. position on international issues

I need news from **other countries' perspectives**	World Press Review	Get nonpartisan summaries of views outside U.S.
	Newspaperindex	Browse selected world newspapers
	ABYZ News Links	Browse international broadcast and Internet news, newspapers, magazines, and press agencies

| I want multiple perspectives on **hot social and political** | Social Issues | Links to pro/con on current social issues |

| **topics** | Public Agenda | Analysis of public attitudes on social issues with overview, pro/con, organization links |
| | UN News Centre: News Focus | Browse for UN-related issues by region, country or topic |

| I want to **compare news treatment** | Newseum | Compare news reporting on U.S. front pages |
| | PressDisplay | Compare news reporting from 55 countries |

I need a specific type of media...

maps	Google Maps	Search and view satellite and street-level maps
	MapMachine	Search, browse and print country, physical and political maps
	American FactFinder Maps	See trends/patterns when you superimpose chosen geographical features and census data on U.S. maps

photographs and visual images	Google Image Search	Use advanced search to limit by size, coloration, file type
	Yahoo Image Search	Use advanced search to limit by size and coloration
	Flickr	Search users' photos by their subjects ("tags"), then choose a subtopic ("tag cluster)

| fine art | Artcyclopedia | Search (e.g., artist, medium, movement, subject) or browse for digitized art and online exhibits, see actual size |
| | Intute: Arts and Humanities | Search or browse selected, evaluated resources |

videos	Yahoo Video Search	Search by keyword or phrase, use advanced search to limit by file format, size, duration and domain
	YouTube	Search for, watch or buy an ever-growing collection of TV shows, movies, music videos, documentaries, and personal productions
	Internet Archive: Moving Image Archive	Search public domain films, newsreels, ads, documentaries, television series and other "cultural artifacts"

| radio | PublicRadioFan | Find public radio programs and podcasts worldwide |

| music | Google | To find song lyrics, search (in quotes) title or performer (plus) "song lyrics," to find information about the song's history search title (in quotes) and "origin" |

| sounds | FindSounds | Get sound effects and music samples: select a keyword or search a term limited by file format, quality and size |

speeches	American Rhetoric	Search site or browse categories of full-text, audio and video of American public speeches, lectures, debates, interviews, events
	History and Politics Out Loud	Search or browse full-text public-domain audio with transcripts of 20th century political and historical events, personalities, and protest songs
	American Memory	Find sound recordings of American primary source speeches

| quotations | | |

	[Bartleby.com Quotations](#)	Search classic passages, phrases and proverbs (1901 edn.)
	[Quotations Page](#)	Search word, phrase, author within or across quotation collections
	[Quoteland](#)	Search by keyword or browse topics, authors

| statistical data | [Statistical Information (NoodleTools)](#) | Links to statistical databases and advice on locating and understanding data |

dictionary or thesaurus (for definitions, etymology, pronunciation, synonyms)	[Yahoo Reference](#)	Definitions, etymology, synonyms (English and Spanish) and audio-pronunciation
	[Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus](#)	Definitions, etymology, synonyms and audio-pronunciation
	[WordCentral](#)	Definitions with pictures (student dictionary)

| encyclopedia | [Columbia Encyclopedia](#) | Factual information (updated 6/05) |
| | [Wikipedia](#) | Volunteer-created and collaboratively edited: valuable for current topics (e.g., people in the news), technology (e.g., podcasting) -- information quality uneven |

| almanac data | [Country at a Glance (U.N.)](#) | Basic country profile, use [InfoNation](#) to compare data from 6 countries |
| | [Information Please Almanac](#) | Statistical and factual data -- beware popup minefield |

books and other printed works	[WorldCat](#)	Search for books and reviews, options to refine results, check your local library's holdings
	[Google Scholar](#)	Search (free and fee) scholarly works, locate related information using "cited by" links, use [advanced search](#) to limit (author, date, phrase, in title, subject area)
	[A9 OpenSearch](#)	Search for books by keyword, then "Search Inside!" to see keyword-in-context

I have special search requirements...

| run my search **periodically** and be notified of new results | [Giga Alert](#) | Run Google search of 3 interests and get e-mail or RSS notification of new results |
| | [Google Alerts](#) | Run periodic Google searches and get e-mail (no RSS) notification of new results |

| specify a **country** where my search results are located | [Google](#) | Limit by domain ([advanced search](#)) or by country ([Language Tools](#)) |

| use a search engine **outside the U.S.** | [Search Engine Colossus](#) | Browse search engines and directories from countries and territories |

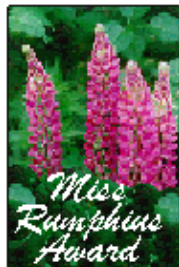| find sites organized by the **Dewey Decimal System** or **Library of Congress Classification** | [Virtual LRC](#) | Select Dewey Decimal number before searching |
| | [INFOMINE](#) | Drill down into [Library of Congress Classification directory](#) |

| locate resources by **file type** | [Google](#) | [Limit search](#) by file type (.pdf, .ps, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .rtf) |
| | [Yahoo](#) | [Limit search](#) by file type (.html, .pdf, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .xml, .txt) |

I am...

a kid		
	KidsClick!	Find kid-friendly sites with educational content (grades K-7) selected by librarians
	Ask Kids	Search by keyword, then select the best-match question for answers and links
	Yahoo Kids	Select from kid-safe sites (grades 2- 7) organized by topic

pretty new to the Internet		
	Google	Largest general purpose search engine
	Yahoo	Large, general purpose search engine
	ipl2	Easy-to-navigate, well-annotated directory of librarian-selected Web sites

an Internet wizard		
	Exalead	Configure highly-specific searches including proximity ("folk tales NEAR sun"), but smaller index than Google or Yahoo
	INFOMINE	**Configure a narrow search** of a large, comprehensive academic virtual library (Web sites, databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, directories of researchers)

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