



THE INTERNET: Surfing Safely Through the World Wide Web

What is the Internet?

The Internet vs. The Web

The **Internet** is a worldwide network of computers. It consists of many parts such e-mail groups, chat rooms, newsgroups and the World Wide Web. The Internet has been around since the 1960's whereas the Web has only been around since around 1993.

The **World Wide Web** is the largest and fastest growing part of the Internet (@800,000,000 pages); its main feature is that it allows for multimedia content (colors, pictures, movies, sounds, etc.).

You may like to think of the Internet/Web in terms of Cable TV - The Internet is the wires, cables; boxes on your TV, etc., the Web would be the shows that you watch. Therefore, there could be an Internet without a Web, but there couldn't be a Web without the Internet.

What can you do, where can you go?

The Internet allows you to:

- Send and Receive Email
- Upload or Download Websites
- Post Messages
- Communicate in Chatrooms

The Web allows you to:

- Find information on almost everything you are looking for.
- Find, listen, and download music, videos and other multi-media
- Play interactive games with others
- Take virtual classes

How to Surf the Web

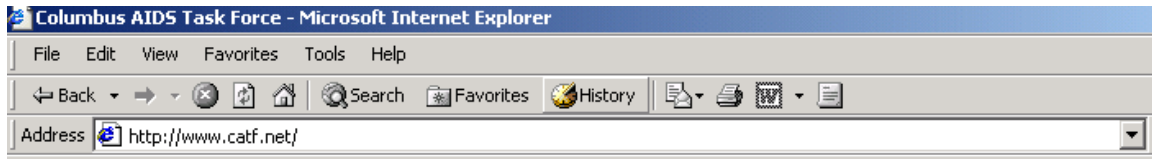
What's a browser?

A computer utility that serves as a portal to information posted on the WWW. The most common browsers are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator. At CATF, we use Internet Explorer.



Introduction to searching the Word Wide Web

Internet Explorer



Toolbar Buttons

On the Internet browser you will find toolbars. The following are toolbar commands:

Address (or location bar) – This line shows the web address (also known as URL) of the web page displayed.

Back - Takes you back to the previous document (or web page).

Forward - Moves you to the next document (only works after back has been used).

Stop - Stops a transfer of information from another computer to your computer (red dot with x through it).

Reload/Refresh - Reloads the current page. Helpful to ensure that you have the most current content and if part of a page does not load into your computer (page with two arrows pointing in clock wise direction).

Home - Programmed to take you to a "starting point". At the CATF Library, clicking on Home will take you to the CATF homepage.

Search - Takes you to a Search Page where you can use various Search Engines to look for information. A search engine is a computer program which searches the WWW for information on a particular topic.

Favorites - Opens list of bookmarks or favorite places. (Internet Explorer only)

History - Shows a list of pages that you have visited.

Print - Will print the current document to the printer. If you would like to see what the document will look like before you print it, there is a preview option: Click on the word "File", then click on the words "Print Preview".

The Web Address (URL)

The URL (Uniform Resource Locator) or Address of the page you are currently viewing is displayed on the Location Bar, to the right of the word Location or Address. Every page on the Web has an address and no 2 pages share the same address. All the websites on the Internet have a name that is comprised of two parts 1) an unique name location and 2) a domain extension. The domain extension tells you what type of organization sponsors the web site.



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Domain Extensions:

- **.org** is for organizational websites (like the United Way, GLSEN)
- **.com** is for commercial establishments, business websites or personal web pages (like Sega, Sears, personal sites etc.)
- **.edu** is for educational sites (like Ohio State university, Capital University, Ohio University, etc.)
- **.gov** is for sites put out by the government (like the Ohio Department of Health)
- There are a few more endings, but these are the most popular.

Using a web address

If you have an address of a website, it's very easy to get to it.

1. Single click into the location/address bar just to the right of the address that's there now.
2. Press the **Backspace** key to eliminate the text that's there
3. You will see a straight, black blinking line (called the cursor) in the location line
4. Type in the address you have and then press the Enter key

Exercise: Clicking Around

Type the following URL's address line of your browses and hit **Enter**

- www.cnn.com
- www.mtv.com
- www.odh.ohio.gov
- www.whitehouse.gov
- www.osu.edu
- www.hivinsite.ucsf.edu
- www.npr.org
- www.kaiseredu.org

HIV and AIDS Online Resources

AEGIS (www.aegis.com) - The largest HIV knowledgebase on the web. The site is sponsored by the Boehringer Ingelheim pharmaceutical company and provides current HIV/AIDS news (updated hourly), HIV/AIDS fact sheets, links to reference resources, access to virtual law library, etc.

How to Search: To search the Aegis site click on the **search** button located on the left menu bar and type key words relevant to the topic you are researching in the search form. You can also browse the site by clicking on the topics listed on the left menu bar.

CDCNPIN - NPIN is a national reference, referral and distribution service for information on HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

How to Search: To search type key words relevant to the topic you are researching in the search line at the top right corner of the page. You can also use the 'advance' search for to narrow your search to specific dates.



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National Library of Medicine Gateway - The NLM Gateway allows users to search in multiple retrieval systems at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). The current Gateway searches MEDLINE/PubMed, OLDMEDLINE, LOCATORplus, MEDLINEplus, ClinicalTrials.gov, DIRLINE, AIDS Meetings, Health Services Research Meetings, Space Life Sciences Meetings, and HSRProj.

How to Search: To search, enter one or more search terms or enter multi-word search terms in the search line at the top of the page. Relevant documents will be return and broken down by information format- journal citations, books, videos, meeting abstracts, etc.

New York Online Access to Health (NOAH): Ask Noah About AIDS (basic)- NOAH seeks to provide high quality full-text health information for consumers that is accurate, timely, relevant and unbiased. The New York Public Library and New York University created NOAH. On this page you will find answers to questions like what is AIDS/HIV, what are some medications, what is Kaposi's sarcoma?

How to Search: Simply click on the word or phrase and get an overview of the topic or concept.

Public Health Service: HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (comprehensive)- Site is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is organized around five main subject categories about HIV/AIDS and treatment: health topics, guidelines, drugs, vaccines, clinical trials. The site is incredibly comprehensive and provides basic information on HIV/AIDS to in depth medical presentation.

How to Search: You can search the entire site by typing your search terms into the search box in the top right corner of the page or browse specific tops by clicking on the heading tabs at the top of the page.

HIV Insite – This site is sponsored by the Center for HIV Information at the University of California in San Francisco. The site houses a comprehensive textbook with extensive reference and related medical links organized by topic. The front page of the site has links to the most current and newsworthy HIV/AIDS articles.

How to Search: To search type key words relevant to the topic you are researching in the search line at the top right corner of the page or browse through the site by clicking on the topic buttons along the top of the page: Knowledge Base, Medical, Prevention, Policy Analysis, Countries and Regions.

Thebody.com – Comprehensive site featuring more than 550 topic areas ranging from AIDS basics and prevention to just diagnosed and treatment. The site also has bulletin boards on AIDS related topics.

How to Search: Select one of the subject headings listed in the middle of the page (AIDS Basics & Prevention, Just Diagnosed, Treatment, Quality of Life, Policy & Activism, HIV around the world, conferences) then click on the specific topic within that subject you are interested in researching. To search the entire site type key words relevant to the topic you are researching in the search line beneath the subject heading on the front page of the site.

How Search the World Wide Web

What do you do if you are looking up a topic but have no idea what website will help find the answer? You use a SEARCH ENGINE!

What's a search engine?

It is a website that has a database of millions of other websites. By entering a keyword, the search engine will bring up all the websites that have something to do with that word.

Common Search Engines:



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- www.google.com
- www.yahoo.com
- www.ask.com
- www.altavista.com
- www.metacrawler.com

Every browser (Internet Explore, Netscape, AOL, etc...) has a link to a search engine as well. To use these search engines, simply click on the icon on the tool bar that represents "search" (globe with a magnifying glass)

Exercise: Practice searching for HIV Information. Use one of the search engines listed above to practice searching for information on the Web by typing **HIV** or **AIDS** into a search engine.

With this type of broad search you will receive a large amount of hits so you may want to include additional terms specific to the aspect of HIV/AIDS information you are looking for: HIV state drug program, AIDS support groups, Just diagnosed with AIDS, AIDS reverse transcriptase.

Don't Be Fooled! Evaluating Information on the Web

When searching information on the Web, remember anyone can post information on a website. To insure the information you are reading is timely and accurate you need to consider

- Authorship
- Accuracy
- Objectivity
- Currency
- Coverage

Authority

- Who is responsible for the contents of the page?
- Is there an ("about us") link to a page describing the purpose of the website?
- Is there a phone number, email, or postal address to contact for more information?
- Is it clear who wrote the material?
- Is the author qualified for writing on this topic?
- If the material is protected by copyright, is the name of the copyright holder given?

Accuracy

- Is there a bibliography or list of works cited?
- Is the information free of grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors? (These kinds of errors not only indicate a lack of quality control, but can actually produce inaccuracies in information).
- Is it clear who has the ultimate responsibility for the accuracy of the content of the material?
- If there are charts and/or graphs containing statistical data, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?

Objectivity

- Is the information provided as a public service?
- Is the information free of advertising?



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Objectivity continued...

- If there is any advertising on the page, is it clearly differentiated from the informational content?

Currency

- Is the website new and up-to-date?
- When was the page written?
- When was the page first placed on the Web?
- When was the page last revised?
- If material is presented in graphs and/or charts, is it clearly stated when the data was gathered?
- If the information is published in different editions, is it clearly labeled what edition the page is from?

Coverage

- Is the webpage under construction or is it completed?
- If there is a print equivalent to the webpage, is the entire work available on the Web or only parts of it?
- If the material is from a work that is out of copyright (as with a dictionary or thesaurus) has there been an effort to update the material to make it

Tip: The domain extension can be very helpful when you are validating information on a website. URLs that end in .gov are sponsored by the government agencies and .edu are sponsored by academic institutions. These extension add credibility to information available on a site. This does not mean that .com sites will not have good information but be sure to review the site's content with respect to the criteria above.

Tip: Often when you click on a web link within a site you sent to a new site with a different URL sponsored by a completely different institution. Remember to research who is sponsoring the information on these external pages as well.