

Having trouble finding useful information on the web? Try some of these tips.

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### **Tip 1. Choose Your Search Terms Carefully**

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Search engines like Google have indexed **every word on billions of web pages**.

When you choose your search terms:

- **Be specific:** use words which define the topic narrowly.
- Try **phrase searching:** specify that you only want pages on which your search terms appear side by side. In Google, you do this by putting double quotation marks around the words, e.g. “*child protection in queensland*”.

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### **Tip 2. Limit Your Search to a Particular Internet Domain**

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Specify that you only want pages from educational or government websites. In Google, you do this by using the *Advanced Search*, and finding the box labelled *Search within a site or domain*.

These are some of the domain names that you can use:

- **.edu.au** – for Australian educational websites
- **.gov.au** – for Australian government websites
- **.org.au** – for Australian organisation websites (e.g. NGOs)
- **.edu** – for United States educational websites
- **.gov** – for United States government websites
- **.org** – for United States and international organisation websites (e.g. NGOs)
- **.ac.uk** – for United Kingdom academic websites
- **.gov.uk** – for United Kingdom government websites
- **.org.uk** – for United Kingdom organisation websites (e.g. NGOs)

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### **Tip 3. Use a Gateway (Subject Directory)**

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Gateways (also called subject directories) are databases of selected, high-quality websites. The gateways are usually organised in some sort of subject hierarchy so that you can browse to find useful websites in your area.

Here are some useful gateways:

<b>Intute</b>	<a href="http://www.intute.ac.uk/">http://www.intute.ac.uk/</a>
<b>ipl2: Internet Public Library</b>	<a href="http://www.ipl.org/">http://www.ipl.org/</a>
<b>dmoz: Open Directory Project</b>	<a href="http://www.dmoz.org/">http://www.dmoz.org/</a>

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## Tip 4. Organisation Websites

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Websites of organisations can often contain useful links to other web resources.

Think of a **key organisation** in your area. It might be a government agency, a non-governmental organisation, a scholarly society, a research institute or a professional or business association. Find their website and see if it will guide you to other useful websites.

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## Tip 5. Specialised Search Engines

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Everyone knows Google, but there are other more specialised search engines available. They may give more useful results in some situations. Many of them are offshoots of Google.

<b>Google Scholar</b> [Electronic journals and other academic content. Much of this material is available only to subscribing institutions.]	<a href="http://library.uq.edu.au/record=e1001260">http://library.uq.edu.au/record=e1001260</a> [Always connect via the UQ Library catalogue if you are not on campus. This will make it easier to access subscribed content on Google Scholar.]
<b>OAlster</b> [Academic resources, both text and audiovisual]	<a href="http://oaister.worldcat.org/">http://oaister.worldcat.org/</a>
<b>Google Images</b>	<a href="http://images.google.com/">http://images.google.com/</a>
<b>Blinkx</b> [Video search engine]	<a href="http://www.blinkx.com/">http://www.blinkx.com/</a>
<b>Yahoo! News</b> [Websites of newspapers and other news media]	<a href="http://news.yahoo.com/">http://news.yahoo.com/</a>
<b>Google Books</b> [Search millions of books online and view previews of their content. Some full-text books are available.]	<a href="http://books.google.com/">http://books.google.com/</a>
<b>Scirus</b> [Scientific web resources]	<a href="http://www.scirus.com/">http://www.scirus.com/</a>

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## Tip 6. Evaluation and Citation

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Remember to carefully evaluate any information that you find on the web. See the UQ Library “How-to” guide on **Evaluating Information Resources**.

If you use any information that you find on the web, you must **reference** it in your paper. The UQ Library has a range of “How-to” guides on referencing according to different style manuals (Harvard, APA, Vancouver, MLA, etc.).