

## Search Engines

*A search engine is a large database of Web sites that have been randomly collected by computer. Because they have been randomly collected, expect to see both good and poor quality sites in your search results.*

*A search engine allows you to search for your keywords in the individual pages of the Web sites in its database. For this reason, search engines are good for 'needle in a haystack' type questions.*

### When should I use a search engine?

- When you are looking for a specific site (for example, the home page of the **Nova Scotia Agricultural College**)
- When you are looking for information on a narrow, specific or obscure topic (for example, the **Hubble telescope** or **Alpert's syndrome**)
- When your topic is made up of more than one concept (for example, **eating disorders in men**; the **migration routes of Monarch butterflies**)

### Search Engine Tips

- **Use the most unique and precise word(s) you can think of** to describe your topic (for example, *asperger syndrome* rather than *special needs*).
- **Use more words rather than fewer words** to describe your topic (for example, *jobs alberta nursing* rather than *jobs alberta*).
- **Use quotation marks** to indicate a phrase or string of words that belong together (for example, "*fetal alcohol syndrome*").
- **Use the Advanced Search option** to limit your results by language, date, domain, geographic location, keyword occurrence in title or URL, and in other helpful ways.
- **Use more than one search engine** for more comprehensive results. Remember: No single search engine covers the entire Web.

## **Search Engines**

Google

**<http://www.google.com>**

AllTheWeb

**<http://www.alltheweb.com>**

Teoma

**<http://www.teoma.com>**

AltaVista

**<http://www.altavista.com>**

Ixquick

**<http://www.ixquick.com>**

## **Search Engines - Recommended for images and other media**

Google Image Search

**<http://www.google.com/images>**

Ditto

**<http://www.ditto.com>** (images)

AltaVista

**<http://www.altavista.com>** (images, audio, video)

Ixquick

**<http://www.ixquick.com>**