

Study skill 8 - How to search for information on the Net

What do you do when you want to find some information on the Net?

You can use tools such as search engines that will help you to process a large amount of information in a short time. Here is a list of suggestions for you. Work in groups and follow the steps below.

Step 1

Choose an international search engine like:

- www.google.com
- www.yahoo.com

Step 2

Type in keywords relevant to your search. If the aim of your search is to find out about wholesalers in the UK, you can type in:

- fashion wholesalers in the UK;
- selling clothes in the UK;
- the English fashion market;
- exporting Italian clothes in the UK.

Step 3

When you get your results, you will see a list of sites ranked from the most relevant to your search to the least relevant. Browse the sites at the top of your list first. The first ten sites will be the most important for your search.

Step 4

Start browsing their contents, which usually appear in the list below the hot word, before actually clicking on the hot word. They will give you an idea about the information offered on the site.

Step 5

When you find an interesting site, click on it, read it and add it to your list of favourites.

Step 6

Get organized! Each person in the group can look at some of the bookmarked websites. Sharing work saves time.

Step 7

Discuss the contents of the various websites. Decide which one is the most relevant for you and why. Write down the reasons why you chose that website in particular.

Step 8

Keep a record of your search. It will help you become more aware of what you are doing.

One person in each group should write down each step of your search to keep a detailed record of how you worked and what steps you took. Then report your results back to your teacher.

When you carry out a webquest, you should make sure you locate good information resources. For example if you look up info about a museum it is a good idea to search the official website of the museum.

Here is what you should do:

- a. when you google your search, you will find a lot of sites related to your topic;
- b. you should read the few lines of description for each website and decide which ones are more relevant to your search;
- c. once you have selected relevant sites, include them in your sitography so you can give credit to people and sites who have helped you in your search; you will include the sitography in the Appendix of your websearch;
- d. follow your teacher's instructions, you may be asked to look for very specific information, such as the meaning of words in online dictionaries, or broader topics like Ellis Island Museum in New York that require a little more organisation;
- e. follow the steps of the search thoroughly and make sure someone in your group writes down what you did to find the info, which sites you visited, which ones you selected and why and how you navigated within the website. Did you follow the titles of the sections in the website, did you read all the articles or did you focus on some parts of them? Keep a record of all the steps you took to complete the task. Mention any difficulties you had either in the work with your school friends or in the actual carrying out of the task. You may be asked about them.

1 GROUPWORK You are interested in the Italian migration to the USA at the beginning of the 1900 century. Decide one supervisor of the group who will keep a record of the process as suggested in point e. above.

- a. Search to the webpage of the Ellis Island Museum.
- b. Look for texts about migration in 1900 century.
- c. Take notes about what happened in Ellis Island at that time.
- d. Look for specific info about Italian immigrants.
- e. Download some family trees and photos of Italian families.
- f. Read the online diaries of these families and write down two or three diary entries that you will read to the class.
- g. Collect the diary entries, photos and family trees and stick them on a poster for your class.
- h. Now imagine you are an Italian immigrant who has just arrived in Ellis Island. Use the info you have just gathered to write a text describing:
 - how you feel;
 - what worries you;
 - how officials treated you;
 - what you hope to find in this new land.
- i. Write 10 lines. Add your text to the poster.