Introduction to the Internet

St. Albert Public Library
Cultivating Community

Learning Objective

By the end this session you will be able to retrieve specific information on the internet using Google's search engine.

Class Outline

- ✓ Define common tools of the Internet: web browser, web page, hyperlink, search engine
- ✓ Introduce some basic and helpful features on the internet browser toolbar
- ✓ Apply Google search techniques
- ✓ Practice search techniques

What is The Internet?
How does it work?

What is THE Internet?

A worldwide network of computers, that “talk” to each other using the same rules (protocols) for sending information back and forth.

What can you do on the Internet?

Stream Media

Look for a job

Health Information

Play games

Banking

Genealogy research

Maps and directions

School research

Listen to music

Social Networking

E-mail

Buy and sell

Watch Videos

News

Video Conferencing (Skype)

eBooks

Virtual tours

Make travel arrangements

blog

BROWSERS

- Special software that allows the ordinary person with minimal computer knowledge to search the internet.
- Allows you to load and view web pages.

Firefox - popular and fast browser.

Google Chrome– fastest and most secure

Internet Explorer- Microsoft product.

Default browser for Windows. LEAST SECURE!

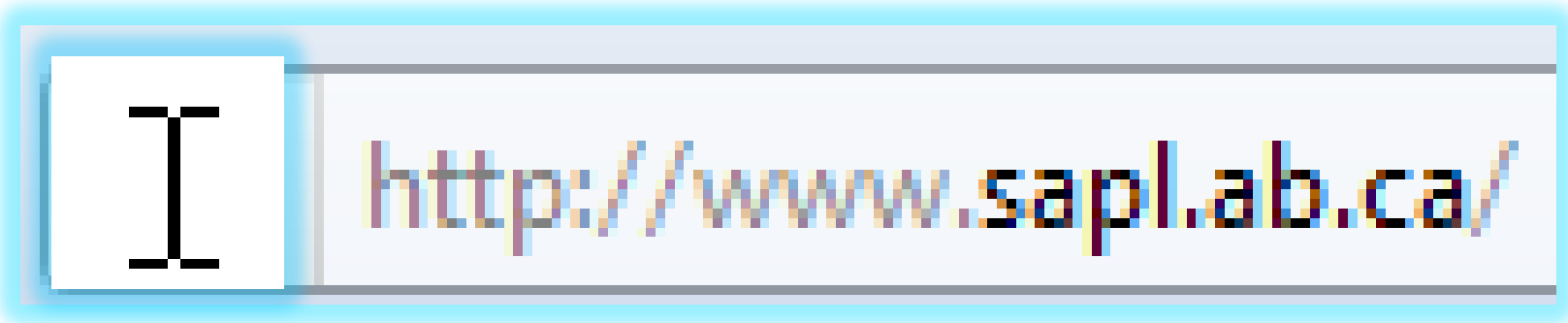
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrXPcaRlBqo&feature=relmfu

Web Page

- A document or resource that is suitable for the World Wide Web and can be accessed through a web browser and displayed on a monitor or mobile device.*
- Webpage, website or site
- Accessed through its URL.

* definition taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_page

Address Bar and URL’s

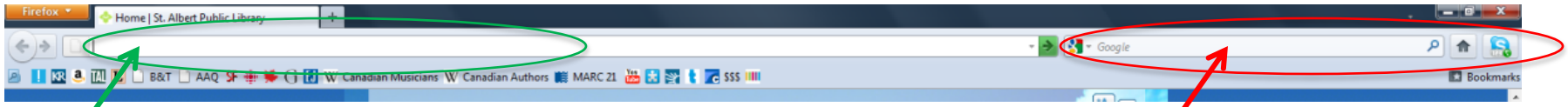


UNDERSTANDING “URLs”

Uniform Resource Locators

Internet Address.

http://www._____._____/____



Type the URL Internet Address **Here.**

NOT

HERE. *The Search Engine Dialogue Box*

http://www.sapl.ab.ca

http = Protocol prefix (type of transmission standard computer must use to access)

www = World Wide Web

sapl = Domain name

ab = Domain name extension

ca = Domain name extension

https = signifies secure (encrypted) site

www.sapl.ab.ca

Domain Name Extensions

- .com = commercial use
- .edu = education and research
- .gov = government agencies
- .int = international agencies
- .mil = military agencies
- .net = gateway or host use
- .org = nonprofit organizations

Country Code Extensions

- .ae = United Arab Emirates
- .at = Austria
- .au = Australia
- .be = Belgium
- .ca = Canada
- .de = Germany
- .uk = United Kingdom
- .us = United States
- and many, many more. . . .

HYPERTEXT LINKS

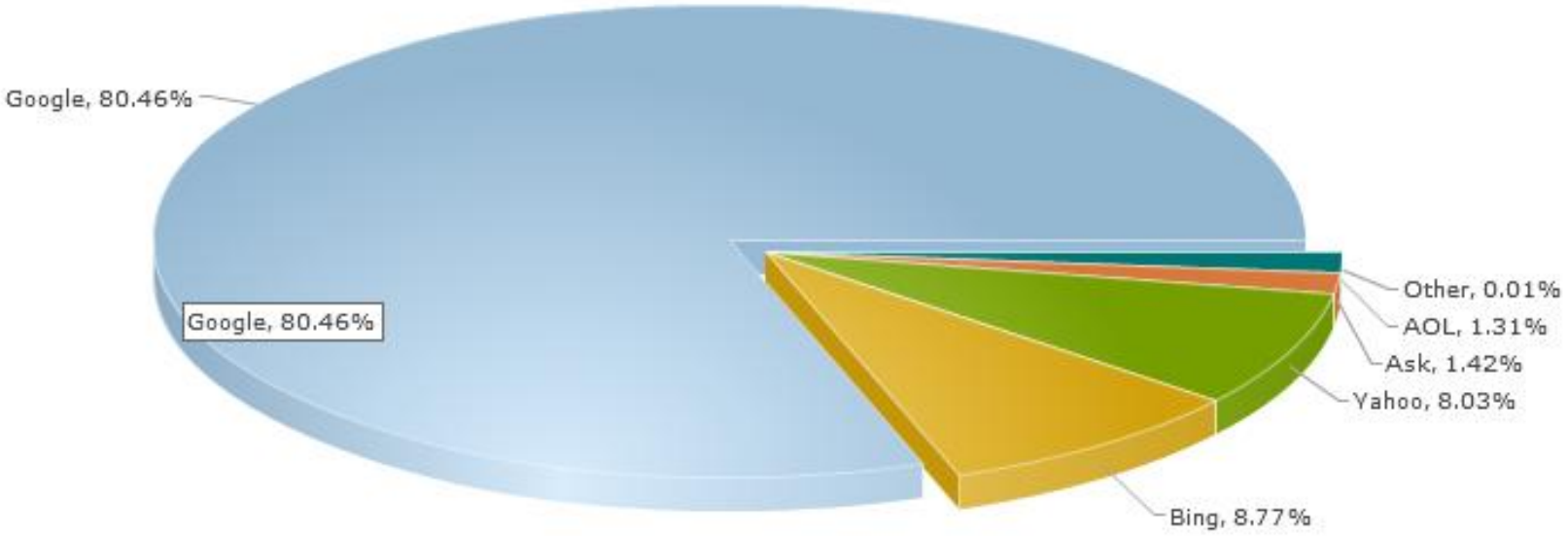
Electronic links

- The cursor changes from an arrow to a hand when placed on a “live” link
- When you click on a link, the browser opens another web page
- Hypertext Links can be words, pictures or buttons.
- Hypertext links are often written in color and underlined.

www.sapl.ab.ca

SEARCH ENGINES

- Search engines use computers to search the Web for specific words or phrases.
- Best searched by key word(s)



SEARCH ENGINE	TOTAL AVG	AUG '11	SEP '11	OCT '11	NOV '11	DEC '11	JAN '12
Google	80.47%	81.07%	80.25%	81.09%	79.21%	80.87%	81.10%
Bing	8.77%	8.31%	8.96%	8.49%	9.46%	8.55%	8.40%
Yahoo	8.03%	8.19%	8.39%	7.73%	8.54%	7.76%	7.43%
Ask	1.42%	1.15%	1.12%	1.27%	1.44%	1.57%	1.71%
AOL	1.31%	1.27%	1.27%	1.41%	1.34%	1.24%	1.36%
Other	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%

KEYWORD SEARCHING

Fine tune your search

Just what DO you want?

- Focus on your subject
- Identify key words, acronyms, abbreviations, similar terms, variant spellings etc.
- Try to be as specific as possible
- Use of “quotes”

Remember!

When it comes to searching YOU are the real brains of the operation, not the search engine.

Google Search Page

http://www.google.ca/

Let’s take a look at the Google Search Page

Search Examples

1) Find the order of the planets

2) Find a picture of both Bill Gates and Steve Jobs together.

3) Find the contact information for the Prime Minister of Canada.

Introduction to the Internet

Session 2

St. Albert Public Library

Learning Objective

By the end of this class you should be able to:

- Highlight & Copy/Paste text and pictures into a Microsoft Word document.
- Add websites to your “favourites bar” and “and favourites listing”.
- Operate the print and print preview functions

Internet Searching - Homework Questions

1. Who founded Google?

www.google.ca

2. How old is Mr. Potato Head?

www.google.ca

3. STARFest is St. Albert's own Readers Festival. Which author will be appearing at STARFest on Friday, October 26th 2012?

www.google.ca

4. A new species of Monkey was discovered in September. Can you find both:

   a)the name of this new species

   b) picture of it from Google images

FAVORITES

or “Bookmarks”

Electronic links

- Where is that good site I saw yesterday?
- Time saver
- Research, vacation, hobbies and more!

PRINTING

Text and graphics

- ✓ Always do a “Print Preview”
- ✓ “Think ink”
- ✓ Save Trees

EVALUATING A WEB SITE

- Who?
  - Who is the author, publisher?
  - Who sponsored or funded the site?
  - Do you recognize them as an authoritative source?
  - What are their credentials, qualifications, background and experience?
  - Are the sources trustworthy?

Evaluating a Website

- What? Why?
  - What are their motives for publishing the information?
  - What standpoint do they take? Impartial? Biased?
  - Does the site's information seem thorough and well organized?
  - Is the information well written and easy to understand?

Evaluating a Website

- When?
  - When was the site created? How current is the information?
  - Is it important that the information you are looking for is absolutely current?
  - Are there any dead links?

When In Doubt, Doubt!

INTERNET GUIDES

More training and tutorial information available online

St. Albert Public Library Online Tutorials:

www.sapl.ab.ca

- Click on Services
- Online Computer Training

  (left hand menu)

Learning Objective