

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE WEB SEARCHING

1) Remember that all web search engines are NOT created equal—no single search engine indexes all web pages. For example, searching for the UVA Environmental Engineering web page using four major search engines yielded the following results (as of 5/15/07):

Ask.com	143,100 total hits	UVA page listed 10 th
Google	715,000 total hits	UVA page listed 17 th
Live Search	110,551 total hits	UVA page listed 5 th
Yahoo!	404,000 total hits	UVA page listed 20 th

2) Remember that many web pages and much specific data is proprietary and cannot be found at all using standard web search engines—but you can find this information using other database search tools provided by the library! Ask at any library Information Desk!

3) Use the search tips listed on the back of this sheet to improve your results. These tips work in almost all search engines, not just Google!

4) Use a search engine's **Advanced Search** screen (if available) to help formulate your queries.

5) Limit your search to **.edu domains** to weed out “non-scholarly” material.

6) Limit your search to **.org domains** to pick up material produced by national academies and professional organizations.

7) Limit your search to pages that contain your search terms in the **title of the page** to weed out pages less likely to be relevant to your search.

8) Instead of always using Google or Yahoo or similar “popular” search engines, **consider using specialized search engines and directories** that are specific to the kind of material (e.g. science, engineering) that you are interested in or the specific type of subject matter you are looking for (e.g. computers, civil engineering). Some possibilities include:

Athenus Science and Engineering Search (<http://www.athenus.com/>)

BUBL Link (<http://bubl.ac.uk/>)

EEVL (<http://www.eevl.ac.uk/engineering/index.htm>)

GlobalSpec – the Engineering Search Engine (<http://www.globalspec.com/>)

Infomine (<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>)

Librarians' Internet Index (<http://www.lii.org/search>)

Science.gov (<http://www.science.gov/>)

ScienceResearch.com (<http://www.scienceresearch.com/search/>)

SciNet Science Search Engine (<http://www.scinet.cc/>)

Scirus (<http://www.scirus.com/srsapp/>)

Sciseek Science Online (<http://www.sciseek.com/>)

TechXtra (<http://www.techextra.ac.uk/>)