



# Guide To Finding it on the Net

**TMI!** This popular acronym sums up how you may feel trying to find information on the Internet. There is “too much information” out there, and it is difficult trying narrow down and locate exactly what you’re searching for.

All is not lost though! There are a growing number of websites and tools to help you navigate through and locate the information you need. This pathfinder is a guide to some of these guides.

## General Search Engines

**Web search engine** is a tool designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. The search results are usually presented in a list and are commonly called *hits*. The information may consist of web pages, images, information and other types of files.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ask	<a href="http://www.ask.com">http://www.ask.com</a>
Google	<a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a>
Yahoo	<a href="http://www.yahoo.com">http://www.yahoo.com</a>
Gigablast	<a href="http://www.gigablast.com">http://www.gigablast.com</a>
Live Search	<a href="http://www.live.com">http://www.live.com</a>

## MetaSearch Engines

A **meta-search engine** is a search tool<sup>[1]</sup> that sends user requests to several other search engines and/or databases and aggregates the results into a single list or displays them according to their source. Metasearch engines enable users to enter search criteria once and access several search engines simultaneously. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

DogPile	<a href="http://www.dogpile.com">http://www.dogpile.com</a>
MetaCrawler	<a href="http://www.metacrawler.com">http://www.metacrawler.com</a>
All4One	<a href="http://www.all4one.com">http://www.all4one.com</a>
Clusty	<a href="http://www.clusty.com">http://www.clusty.com</a>
Mamma	<a href="http://www.mamma.com">http://www.mamma.com</a>



**Custom Search Engines** Set your own limits and create it yourself! Or access search engines others have created on specific topics.

**Google Custom Search** <http://www.google.com/coop/cse>

**Custom Search Guide** <http://www.customsearchguide.com>

You may also use the “advanced search” or “preferences” features given by your search engine to “customize” your own searches.

**Web Directories** A web directory or link directory is a directory on the World Wide Web. It specializes in linking to other web sites and categorizing those links. A web directory is not a search engine and does not display lists of web pages based on keywords; instead, it lists web sites by category and subcategory. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Librarian’s Internet Index** <http://www.lii.org>

**Infomine** <http://infomine.ucr.edu>

**About.com** <http://www.about.com>

**Google Directory** <http://directory.google.com>

**Yahoo Directory** <http://dir.yahoo.com>

**“The Invisible Web”** The deep Web (also called Deepnet, the invisible Web, dark Web or the hidden Web) refers to World Wide Web content that is not part of the surface Web, which is indexed by standard search engines. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Invisible Web might contain pages not considered important enough to include in the “visible web”, pages limited by authors (they don’t want certain items to be easily found), and contents of many library databases.

**So how do I find anything in “The invisible web”?**

Because actual humans select the results you find when you use web directories, you can use the subject guides to locate many of these “invisible web” pages. In the search engines, computer software is used to select the results of your inquiries. But you can search “deeper” into the Internet by adding specific terms when you use general search engines. For example: instead of “civil war” search “civil war database”, “civil war directories”, “civil war virtual libraries” or “civil war gateway pages”.

More and more web tools are being designed to search the invisible web. Here are a few to try:

**Google Scholar** <http://googlescholar.com>

**Complete Planet** <http://aip.completeplanet.com>

**OAIster** <http://www.oaister.org>

**Library Spot** <http://www.libraryspot.com>

**Note:** While searching the deep recesses of “the invisible web”, you may find links to many library databases and research tools. You will need a username and password for these resources in most instances. **Contact your library for additional information.**