

## Internet Search Engine Guide

Information Need	Characteristics of the Search Engine
<b>I have an idea of a broad topic. I want an overview of my topic. I need to narrow it.</b>	Organizes information as “subject trees” from general to specific topics. <b>(Yahoo)</b>
<b>I want a small number of relevant hits and an idea of what’s in each document before I go to each page.</b>	Hits have excellent summaries. When you find a relevant hit, you can submit a “query by example” to locate similar pages. <b>(Excite)</b>
<b>What’s available on the Internet for my topic?</b>	Searches the 9 major databases and integrates results. <b>(MetaCrawler)</b>
<b>I want quality, evaluated sites that have reviews and ratings.</b>	Smaller database containing descriptive review of sites. <b>(Magellan)</b> Reviews and rates the “Best 5% of the Web” <b>(Top 5%)</b> Small database with relevancy ranking <b>(WebCrawler)</b>
<b>I need to do a pinpoint search because my terms are narrow.</b>	Massive and fast indexer of full text. Good for very specific searches. <b>(Alta Vista)</b>
<b>I have common keywords that probably appear in many documents and should make my search specific.</b>	Fast, powerful, with ranked results and many options for defining a search. <b>(HotBot)</b>
<b>I want to browse.</b>	Subject tree directory. Sometimes contains a short description of sites. <b>(Yahoo)</b>
<b>I need information on a proper name (a place, person, or object)</b>	Recognizes capitalization <b>(Alta Vista)</b> A person search will retrieve the name in both reversed and normal order (eg. Picasso, Pablo and Pablo Picasso) <b>(HotBot)</b>