

# Internet Searches

## Search Engine Math – A Simple way to limit searches

### Using The + Symbol to Add

Sometimes, you want to make sure that a search engine finds pages that have all the words you enter, not just some of them. The + symbol lets you do this.

For example, imagine you want to find pages that have references to both President Clinton and Kenneth Starr on the same page. You could search this way:

**+clinton +starr**

### Using The - Symbol to Subtract

Sometimes, you want a search engine to find pages that have one word on them but not another word. The - symbol lets you do this.

For example, imagine you want information about President Clinton but *don't* want to be overwhelmed by pages relating to the Monica Lewinsky scandal. You could search this way:

**clinton -lewinsky**

### Using Quotation Marks To Multiply

Now that you know how to add and subtract terms, we can move on to multiplication. As in normal math, multiplying terms through a "phrase search" can be a much better way to get the answers you are looking for.

As was stated in the using the + symbol to add section, if you want pages about reserving a campsite in Yosemite you might enter all the terms like this:

**+yosemite +camping +reservations**

That brings back pages that have all those words on them, but there's no guarantee that the words may necessarily be near each other. You could get a page that mentions Yosemite in the opening paragraph but then later talks about getting camping reservations in the Grand Canyon. All the words you added together would appear on this page, but it still might not be what you are looking for.

Doing a phrase search avoids this problem. This is where you tell a search engine to give you pages where the terms appear in exactly the order you specify. You do this by putting quotation marks around the phrase, like this:

**"yosemite camping reservations"**

## **The Search Process**

Conducting effective searches of the Internet is rarely a matter of typing in a single keyword and being presented with the solution to your problem. More frequently, it is a series of searches, each revealing more clues about the information that is available and where that information can be found.

Developing a search process is unique to each person because we each have different styles of using information and specific informational needs. However, the following model can be used as a springboard to your own style. S.E.A.R.C.H. was specifically developed as a teaching aid, a model to help teach teachers and students how to conduct deep research of the Internet. The technique is an acronym that describes the process.

- S** Start with a key term on Yahoo or another small index search tool.
- E** Edit the search expression with terms gleaned from the initial search.
- A** Advance into a larger index search tool.
- R** Refine the search phrase
- C** Cycle back and advance again.
- H** Harvest the results.

### **Tip for Searches:**

It is a good idea to have a text processor open while you are conducting your searches. You can type the keywords into the text processor as you identify them, and then use the program to edit your list of key words into a boolean search expression. Some good text processors to use include: NotePad for Windows 3.x, WordPad for Windows 95/98, and SimpleText for Mac OS.

### **Citation Tool for web information**

[http://landmarks4schools.org/citation\\_machine/cm\\_web.php3](http://landmarks4schools.org/citation_machine/cm_web.php3)

### **Web permission form**

<http://landmarks4schools.org/permission1.php>