

Search Engines and Directories for Young Children and Young Adults

The two most popular search engines / directories appropriate for children and young adults are Yahoo!igans and Ask Jeeves Kids:



<http://www.yahooligans.com/>

Yahoo!igans is both a search engine and a directory, with categories such as “Science and Nature” and “School Bell” (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies).

Example: If you type in “humpback whales”, you will get three “Category matches” to further your search and 18 Web sites including www.pbs.org and other resources from “Family Friendly” organizations.

There is a parent’s and teacher’s guide (<http://www.yahooligans.com/tg/>) that includes lesson plan ideas. It includes a detailed search strategy to use with the Yahoo!igan’s directory mode that describes how to begin with a broad topic and gradually narrow it down.



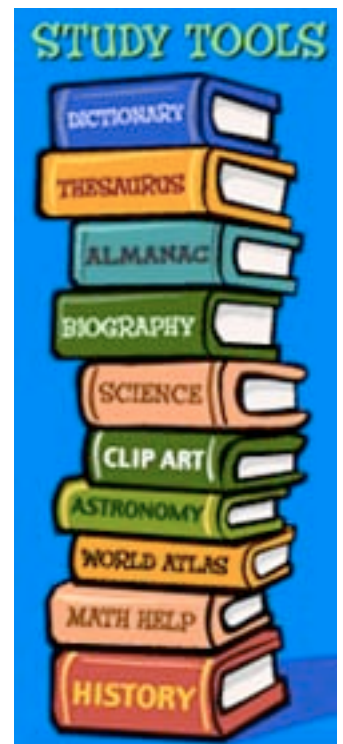
<http://www.ajkids.com/>

Ask Jeeves for Kids allows users to ask a question in plain English.

Example: If you type “Why is the sky blue?” you will receive several paragraphs of explanation with diagrams and photographs. You will also receive links to other search engine results, including Yahoo!igans and its “Ask Earl” column. Other questions might result in a report from an “Expert Scientist” or a collection of activities and experiments.


The user is also provided with a series of several possible further questions to refine the search.

The Ask Jeeves Kids site also provides online reference books. →



Guidelines for Using Google



1. Use the most descriptive keywords you can for the subject you are searching. The more specific you are, the better your results will be.
2. Google looks for sites that include all of the words you enter. The Boolean term “and” is understood. You can narrow a search by typing additional keywords.
3. Commonly used words are not necessary as they are understood in a Google search. If you use words such as “and”, “to”, or “the” you will see a message like:
"The" is a very common word and was not included in your search.
4. Use quotes around phrases you are searching for.
“Gulf of Mexico” would result in fewer and more relevant results than Gulf of Mexico.
5. Searches are not case sensitive. Capital and small letters are treated equally in both common and proper nouns. “Nasa”, “nasa”, and “NASA” would be treated the same way.
6. Wildcard letters are not supported in Google. If you find that the word “technology” did not bring you the results you wanted, try “technologies” or “technological”.
7. Click on  for Google to choose one site that best satisfies your criteria.
8. Click on “Advanced Search” for additional possibilities such as narrowing your search by defining the site creation date, language, or file format. You can also choose to view only sites that have successfully passed through the SafeSearch filter.
9. Choose Images to search for clipart, photographs, and diagrams of a particular object or person.
Choose Groups to participate in Usenet discussion forums.
Choose Directory if you prefer to navigate through general to more specific categories of topics.
Choose News to read news stories from both newspaper and television sources.