



Web Glossary

BACK / FORWARD

Buttons in most browsers' Tool Button Bar, upper left. **BACK** returns you to the document previously viewed. **FORWARD** goes to the next document, after you go **BACK**. If it seems like the **BACK** button does not work, check if you are in a new window; some Web pages are programmed to open a new window when you click on some links.

BROWSERS

Browsers are software programs that enable you to view WWW documents. They "translate" HTML-encoded files into the text, images, sounds, and other features you see. Microsoft Internet Explorer (called simply IE), Netscape, Mosaic, Macweb, and Netcruiser are examples of browsers.

CACHE

A cache temporarily stores web pages you have visited in your computer. A copy of documents you retrieve is stored in cache.

CASE SENSITIVE

Capital letters (upper case) retrieve only upper case. Most search tools are not case sensitive or only respond to initial capitals, as in proper names. It is always safe to key all lower case (no capitals), because lower case will always retrieve upper case.

COOKIE

A message from a **WEB SERVER** computer, sent to and stored by your browser on your computer. When your computer consults the originating server computer, the cookie is sent back to the server, allowing it to respond to you according to the cookie's contents.

DOMAIN, TOP LEVEL DOMAIN (TLD)

Hierarchical scheme for indicating logical and sometimes geographical venue of a web-page from the network. In the US, common domains are .edu (education), .gov (government agency), .net (network related), .com (commercial), .org (nonprofit and research organizations). Outside the US, domains indicate country: ca (Canada), uk (United Kingdom), au (Australia), jp (Japan), fr (France), etc

DOWNLOAD

To copy something from a primary source to a more peripheral one, as in saving something found on the Web (currently located on its server) to diskette or to a file on your local hard drive.

FAVORITES

Way in Internet Explorer to store in your computer direct links to sites you want to return to..

FIELD SEARCHING

Ability to limit a search by requiring word or phrase to appear in a specific field of documents (e.g., title, url, link). See **LIMITING TO FIELD**.

HOST

Computer that provides web-documents to clients or users. See also server.

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language. A standardized language of computer code, imbedded in "source" documents behind all Web documents, containing the textual content, images, links to other documents etc.

HYPertext

On the World Wide Web, the feature, built into HTML that allows a text area, image, or other object to become a "link" (as if in a chain) that retrieves another computer file (another Web page, image, sound file, or other document) on the Internet.

INTERNET (Upper case I)

The vast collection of interconnected networks that all use the TCP/IP protocols that allows computers to "talk" to one another. The World Wide Web is part of the Internet.

ISP

Commonly used abbreviation for Internet Service Provider. The company or institution from which you access the Internet. Erols and America Online are examples.

KEYWORD(S)

A word searched for in a search command. Keywords are searched in any order. Use spaces to separate keywords in simple keyword searching. To search keywords exactly as keyed (in the same order), see **PHRASE**.

LIMITING TO A FIELD

Requiring that a keyword or phrase appear in a specific field of documents retrieved. Most often used to limit to the **TITLE** field in order to find documents primarily about keywords.

META-SEARCH ENGINE

Search engines that automatically submit your keyword search to several other search tools, and retrieve results from all their databases. Convenient time-savers for relatively simple keyword searches.

PERSONAL PAGE

A web page created by an individual (as opposed to someone creating a page for an institution, business, organization, or other entity). Often personal pages contain valid and useful opinions, links to important resources, and significant facts. One of the greatest benefits of the Web is the freedom it as given almost anyone to put his or her ideas "out there." But frequently personal pages offer highly biased personal perspectives or ironical/satirical spoofs, which must be evaluated carefully. The presence in the page's URL of a personal name (such as "jbarker")

and a ~ or % or the word "users" or "people" or "members" very frequently indicate a site offering personal pages.

REFRESH

REFRESH requests a fresh copy of the document, and it is likely to be sent without jamming. Anyone who uses Internet Explorer becomes very familiar with this command.

PHRASE

More than one **KEYWORD**, searched exactly as keyed (all terms required to be in documents, in the order. Most, but not all **SEARCH ENGINES** require that you put phrases in quotation marks.

POPULARITY RANKING of search results

Some search engines rank the order in which search results appear primarily by how many other sites link to each page (a kind of popularity vote based on the assumption that other pages would create a link to the "best" pages). Google is the best example of this.

+REQUIRE or -REJECT A TERM OR PHRASE

Insert + immediately before a term (no space) to limit search to documents containing a term. Insert - immediately before a term (no space) to exclude documents containing a term. Can be used immediately (no space) before the " " delimiting a phrase. Example:

+Saturn -car Useful if your search term is a **STOP WORD**.

SCROLL (DOWN, UP, LEFT, RIGHT)

Moving up or down within a document in your screen. Use scroll bar at right. Click on arrow down or arrow up. Drag the scroll button down or up. Or click on the page up or page down icons at the bottom of the bar. If you need to scroll left or right, use the scroll bar at the bottom.

SERVER, WEB SERVER

A computer running Web software, assigned an IP address, and connected to the Internet so that it can provide documents via the World Wide Web.

SPIDERS

Computer robot programs, referred to sometimes as "crawlers" or "knowledge-bots" or "knowbots" that are used by search engines to roam the World Wide Web via the Internet, visit sites and databases, and keep current the search engine database of web pages..

STOP

Button on IE's Tool Button Bar. Use to stop downloading of a document.

STOP WORDS

In database searching, "stop words" are small and frequently occurring words like and, or, in, of that are often ignored when keyed as search terms. Sometimes putting them in quotes " " will allow you to search them. Sometimes + immediately before them makes them searchable.

SUBJECT DIRECTORY

A finding aid for Web pages. **DIRECTORIES** are compiled by humans, not computers and therefore usually retrieve fewer and better Web pages than a search engine.

TITLE (of a document)

The official title of a document from the "meta" field called title. The text of this meta title field may or may not also occur in the visible body of the document.

TRUNCATION/ WILDCARD

In a search, the ability to enter the first part of a keyword, insert a symbol (usually *), and accept any variant spellings or word endings, from the occurrence of the symbol forward. (E.g., femini* retrieves feminine, feminism, feminism, etc.) A common feature in commercial databases but rarely found in search engines.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator. The unique address of any Web document.

URL EXAMPLES

www.montgomerycollege.edu/library/

www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/guides/internet/Glossary.html

WEB DIRECTORIES

An approach to Web documents by a lexicon of subject terms hierarchically grouped. Synonyms are Web Catalogs and Subject Trees. May be browsed or searched by keywords. WEB DIRECTORIES are smaller than other searchable databases because of the human involvement required to classify documents by subject. The Scout Report and The Librarians' Index to the Internet are examples.

WEB PAGE

A publicly available file stored on a computer linked to the World Wide Web. Web Pages may contain text, pictures, sound bites, movie clips and links to other Web Pages.

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www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/guides/internet/Glossary.html

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