

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Advance Searching

Prior to delving into this topic, it is first necessary to have an understanding about how access to information has changed over the years. Advancements in technology including Internet have opened the door for information access to a much larger percentage of our population. Prior to the emergence of libraries, the wealthy were among the few who had access to information. Libraries began as a way for the wealthy to provide tools for the poor or middle class to self-educate, forcing many to depend on the benevolence of others to acquire new knowledge. Over the years, the role of librarians has remained steady, to assist and teach the skills necessary to facilitate information literacy. Simply stated, to connect patrons with the information pertinent to that patrons needs.

We now live in what can be described as the information era. Information is so readily available that more and more no longer seek an optimal solution but a quick answer, correct or not. It is far too easy to use a search engine to retrieve results that may or may not be authoritative or comprehensive. However, what few realize is that, when using such a device, a far greater body of knowledge is never retrieved or considered. The Internet is so vast that only a minimal amount of its contents are explored. The part rarely examined has been coined by the phrase “the deep web.” Read the article, “The Deep Web”, concerning this topic located at <http://library.albany.edu/internet/deepweb.html>. Give two of the deep web search engines mentioned in the article a try. Select a topic of interest and conduct a query. Examine the results and write a paragraph about your findings in the space provided below:

Search Engine Title:

Summary of findings:

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Search Engine Title:

Summary of findings:

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Even information existing outside of the deep web, retrievable via a search engine, is not typically searched effectively and therefore not examined. Advanced searching strategies and techniques will help with the retrieval of this type of information. However, much of that knowledge contained in “the deep web” can only be accessed by knowing which databases to use, something that takes a considerable amount of practice and training.

To be information literate, one must go beyond route query and learn methods to navigate the information superhighway. In this section, you will practice advanced searching techniques that will allow you to become a more proficient user of search engines. The strategies you will learn apply, in one form or another, to many search engines. However, each may require different combinations of letters, symbols and Boolean operators to attain the same results. It is always helpful to go to the advanced search or help menu prior to beginning a search to verify what combinations are used. ***Pull out your worksheet that discusses Boolean operators.*** It will help you complete this next section.

Select a search engine that you rarely use from the list below. Google and Yahoo will not be accepted.

Alta Vista	<a href="http://www.altavista.digital.com">http://www.altavista.digital.com</a>
Excite	<a href="http://www.excite.com">http://www.excite.com</a>
Find What	<a href="http://www.findwhat.com">http://www.findwhat.com</a>
First Search	<a href="http://www.first-search.com">http://www.first-search.com</a>
Galaxy	<a href="http://galaxy.com">http://galaxy.com</a>
HotBot	<a href="http://www.hotbot.com">http://www.hotbot.com</a>
Infoseek Guide	<a href="http://guide.infoseek.com">http://guide.infoseek.com</a>
Lycos	<a href="http://www.lycos.com">http://www.lycos.com</a>
Northern Lights	<a href="http://www.northernlight.com">http://www.northernlight.com</a>
Teoma	<a href="http://www.teoma.com">http://www.teoma.com</a>
WebCrawler	<a href="http://webcrawler.com">http://webcrawler.com</a>

Look at the help or advanced search menu to decide how to perform advanced search operations.

Site used: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the site accept Boolean searching and if so, what forms?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is the site case sensitive? (Circle one)      YES    or    NO

Does the site use directory, full text, or a combination of both searching types? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the site allow you to use a wildcard and if so, what is the symbol used? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, practice searching using what you now know about the website. Look for information about how nanotechnology may be used to create superior clothing. Write down the URL for the relevant information below along with a two sentence summary of what information the page contains.

URL:

\_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

\_\_\_\_\_

Just for fun – have you ever wondered where to find information in a multimedia format? Try out this site: <http://www.singingfish.com> – you can find lots of audio/video information for free. Look for an audio file from your favorite singer. Write a summary of your results on the line below.

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