



Searching the Web
WIT 2001 Homeroom Module
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SUBJECT DIRECTORIES

Unlike search engines that are maintained by machines, subject directories are created and maintained by human editors. The editors' job is to review and select sites that will be included in their directories.

When you conduct a search using the subject directories, the directory attempts to match your keywords and phrases with those stored in its databases. Subject directories divide their web page into subject categories and sub-categories. This may seem cumbersome at times because you will find that you have to click several times before you get to the final search results. On the other hand, this method allows you to separate web pages that contain irrelevant information on what you're looking for.

When do you use subject directories? Subject directories are ideal for when you are browsing and for searches of a more general nature. You can get the most out of subject directories when you are looking for sources with information on popular topics, organizations, commercial sites and products.

Examples of subject directories:

Yahoo: <http://www.yahoo.com>

LookSmart: <http://www.looksmart.com/>

Magellan: <http://magellan.excite.com/>