

Smart Internet Searching!

1) Look for **clues** in the URL or address of a Web page:

- Clues to **personal home pages**

Here are two sample URLs.

An experienced Web user knows that both URLs point to personal home pages.

☞ <http://www.cdsinet.net/users/bartlett>

The word **users** is the tip off—**bartlett** is the user name of someone who accesses the Internet through cdsinet.net

☞ <http://pubweb.acns.nwu.edu/~abutz/index.html>

A **tilde** - indicates a personal Web site created by someone given space on a Web server. "**abutz**" is the user name of someone who accesses the Internet through nwu.edu. Note: although Northwestern University sponsors this personal web page, it is equivalent to a bulletin board posted outside Professor Butz's office!

- Other clues within the **domain extension**

☞ .comcommerical	Examples: www.gm.com (General Motors) www.amazon.com (Amazon-Web Store)
☞ .edueducational	Examples: www.calvin.edu (Calvin College) www.hope.edu (Hope College)
☞ .orgorganization	Examples: www.grcs.org (GR Christian School Assoc.) www.martinlutherking.org (M. L. King site)
☞ .govgovernment	Examples: www.nws.noaa.gov ... (National Weather Service) www.ustreas.gov/uss (Secret Service)
☞ .milmilitary	Examples: www.af.mil (U.S. Air Force) www.navy.mil (U.S. Navy)
☞ .uk, .usspecific countries	Examples: www.macmillan.org.uk ... (United Kingdom site) www.holocaust-education.de (France site)

2) **Limit** your search:

- In **Google**: type **keyword + site:domain extension**

Examples: **cancer + site:edu** **cancer +site:gov**
"ozone depletion" + site:edu **"ozone depletion" + site:gov**

- In **Altavista.com**, type **keyword + host:domain extension**

3) Thinking About What You Found! VERIFY the site you found! Look for **patterns**:

- **ALLTHEWEB.COM**

☞ Go to alltheweb.com, and paste the URL of the site you want to verify in the search bar

☞ Press Enter or Search

☞ Click on the links to **all external pages that link to...** and **all external pages that contain...**

Any patterns that you notice in the list of sites that follow will give you a good indication of the inclination of the site you are verifying.

- **ALTAVISTA**

☞ Go to Altavista.com

☞ In the search bar, type **link:pastedURL**, press Enter

Example: **link:http://www.martinlutherking.org/**

☞ In the page that follows, look for patterns that will help you to verify the accuracy of the site you are searching. **ESPECIALLY** notice the **Refine your search** column on the right side of the page.

