



Jericho Middle School Library

# The Internet



## What is the Internet?

First you need to know what a network is. A network is a group of computers that are connected so that they can share information. The Internet is simply a network of networks. It lets people on one network share information with people on another network that may be thousands of miles away.

## The World Wide Web

The World Wide Web is the most popular way to search for information on the Internet. The Web uses hypertext links to travel through Web pages that are located on different computers all around the world. Hypertext links let you jump from page to page with a simple click of your mouse button.

## Web Pages

Web pages are plain text documents that are stored on computers called Web servers.

## Web Site

A Web site is a group of linked Web pages installed on a server. A home page is the starting page of a Web site. There is usually a table of contents that allows users to link to other parts of the Web site.

## Web Addresses

Each Web page has its own address on the Internet. This address is called a **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator). The URL for the Jericho Middle School Library is:

**<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/library/>**

## Domain Names

A domain name tells you where the computer “lives”. There are standard domain names that go to different places. For example:

<b>.com</b>	Commercial organization	<b>.mil</b>	Military organization
<b>.edu</b>	College	<b>.net</b>	Network
<b>.k12</b>	Elementary/Secondary school	<b>.gov</b>	Government agency
<b>.org</b>	Other type of organization (usually not-for-profit)		

*Questions? Ask your librarians Mrs. Minikel and Mrs. Kearon*

## Web Browsers

In order to see a Web page in the right format, you need to use a Web browser. Microsoft Internet Explorer is the browser we use in Jericho. Another popular browsers are Netscape and Safari.

## Search Engines

A search engine looks for files or pages on the Internet that contain the word or phrase you are interested in. The database that the search engines are looking in have been put together by a machine. Some search engines are more powerful than others and you can get different results searching the same terms using different search engines. Some of the most popular search engines are: **Google, Ask Jeeves, AltaVista, Hot Bot, Lycos, Go.com, Excite, Kanoodle.com**

## Meta- search Engines

Another type of search engine is called a Meta-search engine. Instead of searching on the Internet for the word or phrase you are looking for, they search the databases of individual search engines and give you their "top" results. Some meta-search engines are: **Dogpile, The Internet Sleuth, WEBCrawler, MetaCrawler, Ixquick, ProFusion, Search.com**

## Internet Directories

Internet directories are arranged by subjects. Unlike search engines, whose databases were put together by machines, the people in the Internet community can recommend sites to include in the Directories. When you are searching, the directory tries to match your word or phrase with the ones in their written descriptions. Some subject directories are: **Yahoo Directory, Yahoooligans!, LookSmart, Kid Info...School Re: Quest dot Net.**

## Virtual Libraries

Virtual Libraries are collections of Internet resources that are evaluated, selected, organized, and described by librarians. Some Virtual libraries are: **The Internet Public Library, KidsClick, Librarians' Index to the Internet.**

