

Common Search Engines

What is a search engine? A search engine searches a database of web pages that it has harvested and stored. The database is built by a computer program that finds the web pages. Different search engines use different programs. The web pages are then “indexed” by another computer program. This program identifies the text, links, and other content in the web page and stores it in the database. Now, you can search the database by keyword or other advanced options. When you click on links from a search engine's search results, you retrieve the current version of the web page. Some of the most popular search engines are listed below:



<http://www.google.com>



<http://www.yahoo.com>



<http://www.bing.com>



<http://www.ask.com>

The Importance of Evaluating Web Pages

While search engine computer programs do a great job finding web pages, they are unable to distinguish between web pages that are accurate, reliable, and useful from web pages that are not. You have to be the critical evaluator of the information you find on the Web. For tips on how to do this, consult the PC Library's [Evaluating Internet Resources](#) guide.

Contact a librarian if you need more help.

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