Searching the Internet – A Primer

By

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Searching the Internet is now as common place as driving the car and most people consider the use of just one search engine to obtain results that they are looking for. This paper is designed to open your eyes to the many excellent resources on the Internet to search for information and/or to discover new knowledge! This paper will explain to you a number of ways to search for information on the Internet and methods to continue your searches and knowledge discovery. This paper is also designed for the "newbie" to the Internet or for the person who only uses one source to search for information on the Internet.

There are basically four areas to search for information on the Internet: 1) Search Engines, 2) Indexes and Directories, 3) Intuitive Search and 4) Custom Search and Deep Web Search. This paper will give a brief explanation of each area followed by some examples that you may immediately implement! The goal here is to broaden your search horizons so you may make searching the Internet easier to perform. This paper is not designed for advanced or sophisticated searching techniques as these will be addressed in other of my papers, columns and articles.

Searching the Internet – A Primer by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A
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Search Engines

Search engines on the Internet are powered by "bots" that actively go out and search for meta description and keywords in files that are placed on the Internet. When you visit the search engine and type in the keyword or phrase that you are looking for the results that are generated come from the latest searching by the search engine's bots that are deposited in the search engine's database. The currency of the results is purely based on when the search engine's bots visited the site and brought back the meta information to the search engine's database. There are literally thousands upon thousands of search engines on the Internet and I will list only a few of the larger and better known. I will also list a "list" of search engines all over the world so you can visit many of them to obtain a better understanding of search engines in general!

ASK Search Engine
http://www.ask.com/

Bing
http://www.Bing.com/

eHealthcareBot.com – Healthcare Meta Search Engine
http://www.eHealthcareBot.com/

Google
http://www.google.com/

HotBot
http://www.HotBot.com/

Search Engine Colossus: International Directory of Search Engines
http://www.searchenginecolossus.com

SurfWax   (Smart Meta Search Engine – Searches Multiple Search Engines)
http://www.SurfWax.com/

Yahoo!
http://search.yahoo.com/
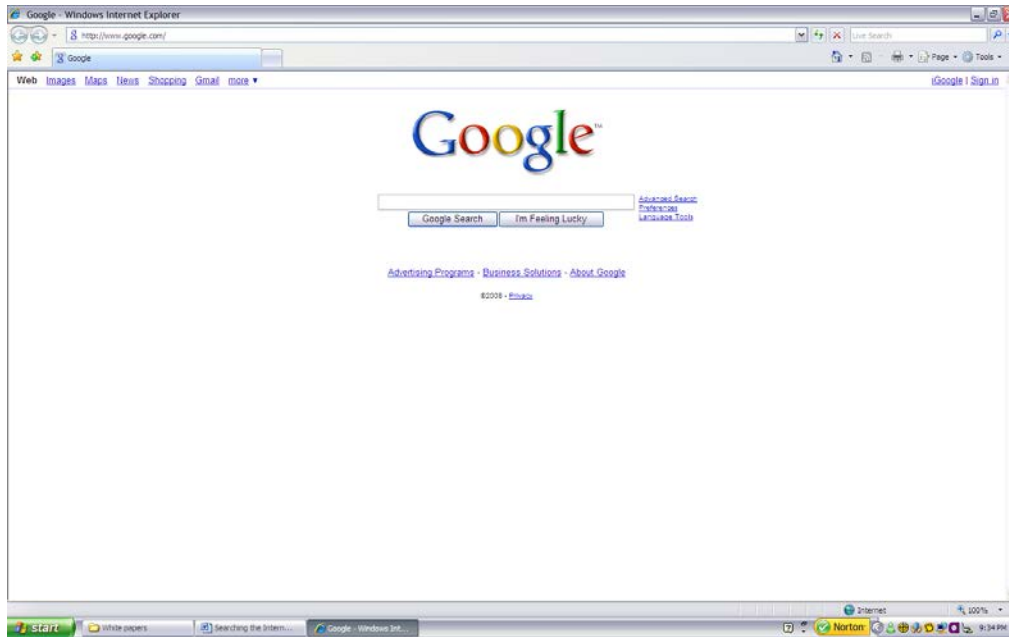
Figure 1: Google™ Search Engine

Indexes and Directories

Most individuals are accustomed to looking for information from directories and indices. This has started with the "telephone" book and then to other similar sources of directory information. The Internet also has a number of directory resources that allow you to search in a more convenient and simple format to find the information that you are looking for by going from menu to menu to menu until you find the subject and/or topic that you are looking for. Many of these are called subject trees, subject directories and are available freely over the Internet. There are literally tens of thousands of directories and subject trees on the Internet and as with Search Engines I will list some of the larger and more popular directories as well as a listing of a Directory of Directories on the Internet.

Directory Resources
http://www.DirectoryResources.info/

Dmoz Open Directory Project
http://www.dmoz.org/

INFOMINE
http://infomine.ucr.edu/

Internet Guidebooks
http://www.cln.org/guidebooks.html

Intute [Closed in 2011; Archives Available]
http://www.intute.ac.uk/

Librarians' Index to the Internet
http://www.ipl.org/

MegaSources
http://pages.pathcom.com/~dtudor/megasources.htm

PINAKES – Subject LaunchPad
http://www.hw.ac.uk/libWWW/irn/pinakes/pinakes.html

Web Based Resources
http://ejw.i8.com/

Yahoo!
http://www.Yahoo.com/
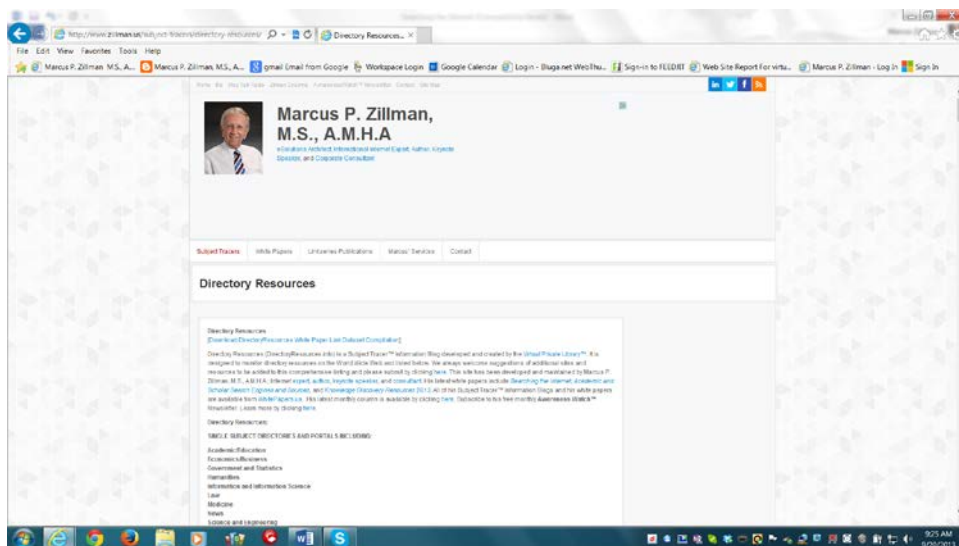
Figure 2: DirectoryResources.info Subject Tracer™

Intuitive Searching

Intuitive searching on the Internet is a fun way to look for information that could be available. By entering a name … any name into the search engine it will return potentially relevant results. This is also an excellent way to check out an individual by typing in their complete name and observing the results brought back by the search engine. Sometimes this could be very interesting. As an example with Google™ you may search for results from the Web, results from Images, results from Groups, results from Directories and results from News. All these results are available from the labeled tabs at the top of each of Google's pages. Also you may take the intuitive name and add one of the basic seven domain name suffixes to it to obtain potentially relevant results:

IntuitiveName.biz

IntuitiveName.com

IntuitiveName.info

IntuitiveName.net

IntuitiveName.org

IntuitiveName.us

IntuitiveName.ws

Replace the IntuitiveName with the name that you are searching for i.e. Research or ResearchResources, etc. and add one of the suffixes above and then enter it in the URL line of your browser to see if that site exists today on the Internet. Also remember that if you have more than one word that all the words must run together to become a potential domain name (Research.com, ResearchResources.info, etc.). This could be a very interesting and valuable resource to finding information on the Internet and must be done periodically as new domain names are being created daily! If you do not find anything today it could very well be created tomorrow!!
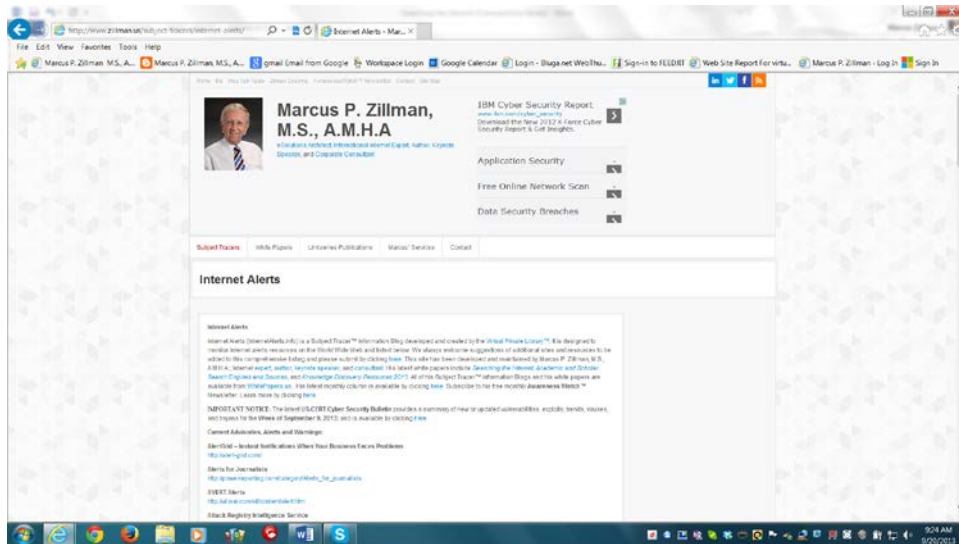
Figure 3: Internet Alerts – InternetAlerts.info Intuitive Name Site

Custom Search and Deep Web Research

Searching the Internet with your own SearchBot or developing a resource list of areas of deep web search will aid you in the discovery of new information as well as going where no search engines have traveled or fear to go! You do not need to be a Geek, Nerd or BotMaster to travel these search areas and I will list some of the highly viewed sites and resources. As the creator of BotSpot.com in 1996 I have used and visited literally hundreds of these resources on an ongoing and continuing basis or I have created these resources to aid the Internet community in discovering information and knowledge in the deep and invisible web. Here are a few of these resources:

Bot Research
http://www.botresearch.info/

Bright Planet
http://www.brightplanet.com/

Deep Web Research and Discovery Resources
http://www.DeepWeb.us/

Finding Information on the Internet – Internet Tutorials
http://www.academicinfo.net/reffind.html

Finding What You Need With the Best Search Engines
http://www.philb.com/whichengine.htm

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Knowledge Discovery
http://www.KnowledgeDiscovery.info/

Tool Kit for the Expert Web Searcher [Last updated 2006, minimally maintained since 2009]
http://wikis.ala.org/lita/index.php/Tool_Kit_for_the_Expert_Web_Searcher

Top Ten Internet Search Tips by Melissa Barker
http://www.melissabarker.com/SearchTips.pdf

I have written a number of white papers and articles on deep web research and knowledge discovery and they are freely available over the Internet at the following sites:

White Papers By Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
http://www.WhitePapers.us/

Using the Internet As a Dynamic Resource Tool for Knowledge Discovery
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/using-the-internet-as-a-dynamic-resource-tool-for-knowledge-discovery/

Current Awareness Discovery Tools on the Internet
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/current-awareness-discovery-tools-on-the-internet/

Academic and Scholar Search Engines and Sources
http://www.ScholarSearchEngines.com/

Knowledge Discovery Resources 2013
http://www.KDResources.info/

Deep Web Research and Discovery Resources 2013 Article - LLRX and White Paper
http://zillman.blogspot.com/2012/12/llrx-deep-web-research-and-discovery.html
http://DeepWeb.us/
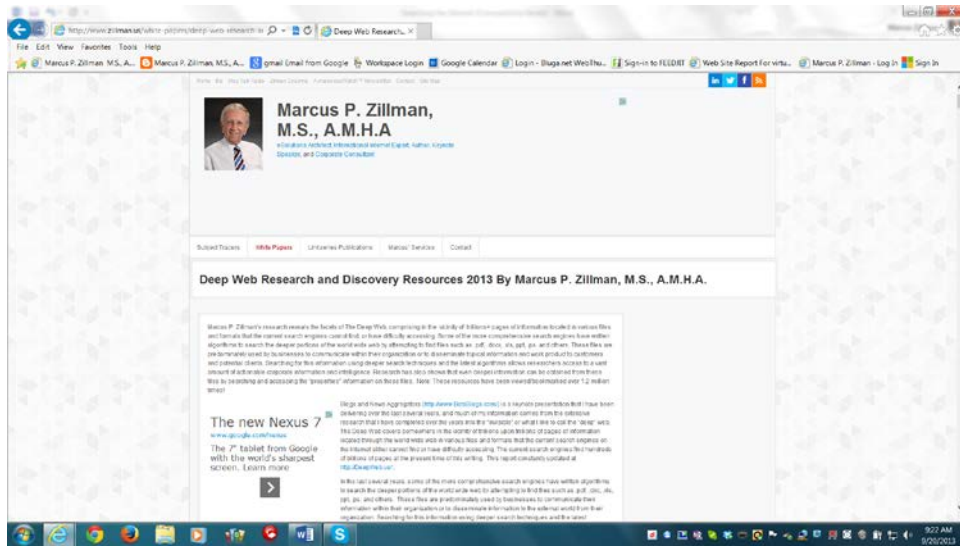
Figure 4: Deep Web Research Resources and Sites – http://DeepWeb.us/

I have also created 53 **Subject Tracer™ Information Sources** that are freely available to the Internet community. These Subject Tracers allow you to search using the directory/index style as I mentioned in Indexes and Directories on page three. The following is a current list of the Subject Tracer™ Information Blogs along with their URL address:

Virtual Private Library™
http://www.VirtualPrivateLibrary.com/

Accessibility Resources
http://www.AccessibilityResources.info/

Agriculture Resources
http://www.AgricultureResources.info/

AnswerSpot
http://www.AnswerSpot.us/

Artificial Intelligence Resources
http://www.AIResources.info/

Astronomy Resources
http://www.AstronomyResources.info/

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Auction Resources
http://www.AuctionResources.info/

Biological Informatics
http://www.BiologicalInformatics.info/

Biotechnology Resources
http://www.BiotechnologyResources.info/

Bot Research
http://www.BotResearch.info/

Business Intelligence Resources
http://www.BIResources.info/

ChatterBots
http://www.ChatterBots.info/

Data Mining Resources
http://www.DataMiningResources.info/

Deep Web Research
http://www.DeepWebResearch.info/

Directory Resources
http://www.DirectoryResources.info/

eCommerce Resources
http://eCommerceResources.info/

Elder Resources
http://www.ElderResources.info/

Employment Resources
http://www.EmploymentResources.info/

Entrepreneurial Resources
http://www.EntrepreneurialResources.info/

Fact Checkers Directory
http://www.FactCheckers.us/

Financial Sources
http://www.FinancialSources.info/

Finding People
http://www.FindingPeople.info/

Games Resources
http://www.GamesResources.info/

Genealogy Resources
http://www.GenealogyResources.info/

Grant Resources
http://www.GrantResources.info/

Green Files
http://www.greenfiles.info/

Grid, Distributed and Cloud Computing Resources
http://www.GridResources.info/

Healthcare Resources
http://www.HealthcareResources.info/

Information Futures Markets
http://www.informationfuturesmarkets.com/

Information Quality Resources
http://www.InformationQualityResources.info/

International Trade Resources
http://www.InternationalTradeResources.info/

Internet Alerts
http://www.InternetAlerts.info/

Internet Demographics
http://www.InternetDemographics.info/

Internet Experts
http://www.InternetExperts.info/

Internet Hoaxes
http://www.InternetHoaxes.info/

Intrapreneurial Resources
http://www.IntrapreneurialResources.info/

Journalism Resources
http://www.JournalismResources.info/

Knowledge Discovery
http://www.KnowledgeDiscovery.info/

Military Resources
http://www.MilitaryResources.info/

New Economy Analytics, Resources and Alerts
http://www.NewEconomyAnalytics.com/

Outsourcing/Offshoring Information and Resources
http://www.OutsourcingOffshore.us/

Privacy Resources
http://www.PrivacyResources.info/

Reference Resources
http://www.ReferenceResources.info/

Research Resources
http://www.ResearchResources.info/

RestStress™
http://www.RestStress.com/

Script Resources
http://www.scriptresources.info/

ShoppingBots
http://www.ShoppingBots.info/

Social Informatics
http://www.SocialInformatics.net/

Statistics Resources and Big Data
http://www.StatisticsResources.info/

Student Research
http://www.StudentResearch.info/

Theology Resources
http://www.TheologyResources.info/

Tutorial Resources
http://www.TutorialResources.info/

World Wide Web Reference
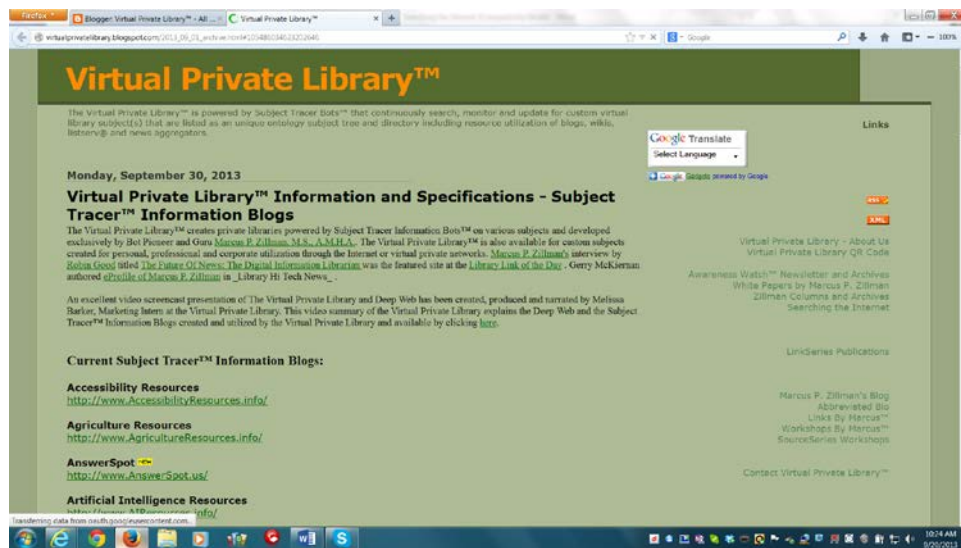http://www.WWWReference.info/

Figure 5: Virtual Private Library™

Author Information: Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A. Executive Director of the Virtual Private Library is an international Internet expert, author, keynote speaker and corporate consultant in the area of information retrieval, knowledge discovery, knowledge harvesting, artificial intelligence and bots/intelligent agents. He has created numerous world wide web sites including 53 Subject Tracer™ Information Portals and Blogs; written a number of internet miniguides, white papers, manuals and books; hosted over 160 weekly Internet television shows, writes a weekly and monthly column on Current Awareness on the Internet; writes a monthly newsletter Awareness Watch and delivers keynote presentations throughout the international marketplace. He also actively

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delivers one and two day workshops for key industry sectors displaying how the Internet can be used as a tool to maintain current awareness and professional competencies. Additional websites by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.:

Marcus P. Zillman's Blog
http://www.zillman.us/

Marcus P. Zillman Abbreviated Bio
http://www.zillman.info/

White Papers by Marcus P. Zillman
http://www.WhitePapers.us/

Awareness Watch™ Newsletter
http://www.AwarenessWatch.com/

Marcus P. Zillman's Columns
http://www.ZillmanColumns.com

LinkSeries Publications
http://www.LinkSeries.com/

Links By Marcus™
http://www.LinksByMarcus.com/

Workshops By Marcus™
http://www.WorkshopsByMarcus.com/

SourceSeries Internet Research Workshops
http://www.SourceSeries.com/

Watch Marcus™
http://www.WatchMarcus.com/

listen to marcus™
http://www.ListenToMarcus.com

Research White Papers, Articles, Lectures and Speeches by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.:

Academic and Scholar Search Engines and Sources
http://www.ScholarSearchEngines.com/

Bots, Blogs and News Aggregators
http://www.BotsBlogs.com/

Business Intelligence Online Resources
http://www.BIOnlineResources.info/

Cloud Computing Resources Primer
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/grid-distributed-and-cloud-computing-resources-primer/

Current Awareness Discovery Tools on the Internet
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/current-awareness-discovery-tools-on-the-internet/

Deep Web Research and Discovery Resources 2013 Article - LLRX and Online White Paper
http://zillman.blogspot.com/2012/12/llrx-deep-web-research-and-discovery.html
http://DeepWeb.us/

eReference Library Link Toolkit
http://www.eReferenceLibrary.com/

Finding Experts By Using the Internet
http://www.FindingExperts.info/

Finding People Resources and Sites
http://www.FindingPeople.info/

Healthcare Bots and Subject Directories
http://www.HealthcareBots.info/

Knowledge Discovery Resources 2013
http://www.KDResources.info/

New Economy Resources 2013
http://www.NewEconomyResources.com/

Online Research Browsers
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/online-research-tools/

Online Research Tools
http://www.OnlineResearchTools.info/

Online Social Networking
http://www.OnlineSocialNetworking.info/

Searching the Internet
http://www.SearchingTheInternet.info/

Using the Internet As a Dynamic Resource Tool for Knowledge Discovery
http://www.zillman.us/white-papers/using-the-internet-as-a-dynamic-resource-tool-for-knowledge-discovery/

Web Data Extractors
http://www.webdataextractors.com/

Web Guide for the New Economy
http://www.WebGuideNewEconomy.com/

White Papers By Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
http://www.WhitePapers.us/

Internet Tutor by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
http://www.InternetTutor.info/
Visit this site to learn about the availability of Marcus P. Zillman to tutor you or your associate one on one in the privacy of your residence or office on the latest happenings of the Internet including Internet basics to advanced Internet searching using bots and creating your own personal blog.

Internet Speaking by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
http://www.InternetSpeaker.net
Visit this site to learn about Marcus P. Zillman's speaking engagements for your organization meetings and events. View and listen to his previous presentations as well as his weekly television shows.

Internet Consulting by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
http://InternetConsultant.BlogSpot.com/
Visit this site to obtain information about obtaining the consultation services of Marcus P. Zillman for your company including eCommerce audits, utilization of bots, blogs and news aggregators or the creation of your own personal virtual private library powered by Subject Tracer™ Information bots!

Current Awareness Monitors, Alerts and Information Traps
http://www.ecurrentAwareness.com/
Marcus P. Zillman's latest report Current Awareness Monitors, Alerts and Information
Traps is available for purchase online and for immediate download. This report is a
comprehensive listing of the latest resources, sources and sites for current awareness on
the Internet. This is a must read for anyone who must stay current in their profession
and/or business activity as the list of URLs will keep you at the leading edge of your
career.

Market Intelligence Resources
http://www.MarketIntelligenceResources.com/
Marcus P. Zillman's just released professional Internet MiniGuide is titled Market
Intelligence Resources and is available for purchase online and immediate download.
This 193 page digital miniguide represents a comprehensive listing of the latest
resources, sources and sites to discover the latest Market Intelligence sources available on
the Internet with many of them freely available! Designed specifically for today's
entrepreneur, professional and/or investor.

Entrepreneurial Links 101
http://www.EntrepreneurialLinks.com/
Marcus P. Zillman's newly released 231 page eReference digital book for the up and
coming entrepreneur. Entrepreneurial Links 101 gives an alphabetical listing of the very
best Internet and World Wide Web sites covering Entrepreneur Resources, Business
Intelligence Resources and an extremely comprehensive list of Online Research Tools.
This is considered by many to be the entrepreneur's bible for finding relevant and
competent online resources!

Internet Privacy and Security Resources
http://www.InternetPrivacySecurity.net/
Marcus P. Zillman's latest eReference digital publication is a selected comprehensive
alphabetical listing of the latest resources and sites covering all aspects of privacy and
security currently available over the Internet. From the board room to the family room,
these resources and sites give you the information you need to maintain your privacy and
security as you use the Internet in your business and personal life.

Research Resources Online Guide
http://www.ResearchResourcesOnline.net/
Marcus P. Zillman's latest LinkSeries Publication is a 235 page digital guide of a selected
comprehensive alphabetical listing of the latest and greatest resources and sites covering
all areas of research that is currently available over the Internet. The guide covers online
research resources and tools for the Newbie to research as well as the Seasoned
researcher. Contents include: a) Research Resources, b) Research Tools, c) Student

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Research Resources Toolkit, d) Knowledge Discovery/Management and Data Mining Resources, e) Knowledge Discovery/Retrieval and the World Wide Web Resources, and f) Subject Tracer™ Information Blogs.

The Survivor's Manual for The New Economy.
http://www.NewEconomyManual.com/
Marcus P. Zillman's latest LinkSeries Publication is a 239 page digital read that gives excellent resources and annotated sources for the new economy analytics, alerts, ecommerce, financial sources, invisible and deep web resources, social and business networking sources along with new economy competitive and business intelligence resources and an extremely comprehensive listing of new economy online tools.

Additional Searching Resources:

Become a Google Power Searcher
http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2012/06/become-google-power-searcher.html

Five Golden Rings – 5 Tips for Teachers and Librarians
http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com/2010/12/five-golden-rings-5-tips-for-teachers.html

Google Search Techniques
http://www.johntedesco.net/blog/2012/06/21/how-to-solve-impossible-problems-daniel-russells-awesome-google-search-techniques/

Help Your Students Become Better Searchers
http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation/index.html

How Proper Online Research Works
http://netforbeginners.about.com/od/navigatingthenet/tp/How-to-Properly-Research-Online.htm

How Many Words Should Be In Your Search Query?
http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com/2010/11/how-many-words-should-be-in-your-search.html

How To Articulate or Form a Search Query
http://searchresearch1.blogspot.in/2011/05/on-writing-good-search-questions.html

How To Improve Your Researching Skills and Write Accurately
http://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/how-to-improve-your-researching-skills-and-write-accurately?et_mid=523564&rid=226010252

How To Use Google and Bing for Search [Video]
http://www.seroundtable.com/photos/google-bing-researchers-16331.html

Incompetent Research Skills Curb Users' Problem Solving
http://www.nngroup.com/articles/incompetent-search-skills/

Methods of Effective Internet Research
http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/economics/internetresearch.htm

Research Methods On the World Wide Web
http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/researchmethods.html

Research Skills for Students
http://www.shambles.net/pages/learning/infolit/research/

Search Education
http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation/

Search Tips and Tricks
http://www.google.com/insidesearch/tipstricks/

Seven Steps to Effective Library Research
http://guides.library.cornell.edu/sevensteps

Seven Tools for Organizing Web Research
http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/02/tools-for-organizing-web-research.html

Teaching the Ten Steps to Better Web Research
http://www.slideshare.net/sweetsearch/teaching-the-ten-steps-to-better-web-research

Teaching Information/Research Skills in Elementary Schools
http://langwitches.org/blog/2009/02/21/teaching-informationresearch-skills-in-elementary-school/

Ten Steps to Better Web Research
http://www.sweetsearch.com/TenSteps

The Search Education Hub: Helping Students Become Savvy Searchers
http://insidesearch.blogspot.ca/2012/05/helping-students-become-savvy-searchers.html

Tips and Tricks for Using Appropriate Search Query Operators
http://searchresearch1.blogspot.in/2011/08/whats-do-you-find-hard-to-search-some.html

Virtual Training Suite – Developing Internet Research Skills
http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/

When To Use the + Operator – The Most Misunderstood of Them All
http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com/2010/12/when-to-use-operator-most-misunderstood.html