

# NoodleTools

NoodleTeach - Teaching Intelligently

## Information Literacy: Search Strategies

### Choose the Best Search for Your Information Need

[Printer-friendly version \(PDF\)](#)

Need additional search ideas? Try [NoodleQuest](#) (interactive version)

#### I need help to define my topic...

I need a **topic**

[Clusty](#) Brainstorm topic ideas using result clusters

[Social Issues](#) Browse hot topics and pro/con links

[Google Directory](#) Search this subject tree enhanced by Google results

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I need to understand the **scope** of my topic

[Intute](#) Investigate annotated academic sites

[INFOMINE](#) Browse annotated research and educational sites enhanced by second-tier "robot-selected" results

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I need to investigate **alternative or related topics**

[Grokker](#) Explore a web of your topic and subtopics (Yahoo results)

[Clusty](#) Uncover buried sites by choosing a related cluster

[Ask.com](#) Select "Expand Your Search"

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I need to **refine and narrow** my topic

[Ask.com](#) Select "Narrow Your Search"

[Clusty](#) Drill down into a cluster of results

[SurfWax](#) Click "Focus" to identify similar, broader, and narrower topics

#### I need to find quality results...

authoritative and scholarly sites chosen by a **subject expert**

[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Search the selective database or drill down into the well-organized subject tree

[Virtual LRC](#) Select a subject category, then search on term(s) or a phrase

[Google Scholar](#) Find scholarly, peer-reviewed subject-specific results with [advanced search](#)

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**personal help** from experts

[AskA+ Locator](#) Locate experts suitable for K-12

[Sources and Experts](#) Browse a journalist's contacts

[Ask a Librarian](#) Get last-resort help (no homework questions)

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sites **ranked or tagged** as valuable or relevant

[Google](#) High PageRank means popular, relevant sites link to the page

[Technorati](#) [Browse](#) or search user-identified subjects ("tags") for blog advice or opinions

[Ask.com](#) High ExpertRank indicates subject-specific popularity

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**primary** sources

[American Memory](#) Locate documents, sound recordings, images, maps, and other American primary sources

[Ready, 'Net, Go!](#) Browse worldwide archival index

[Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web](#) Search for online exhibitions selected by Smithsonian librarians

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**I need to do research in a specific discipline...**

government

[USA.gov](#) [Search](#) or browse official U.S. information and services

[Govt. Publications & Maps: Foreign Gov.](#) Browse worldwide government sites

[Directgov](#) Search or browse official UK information and services

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science, engineering and technology

[Scirus](#) Science-specific Web portals, reports, peer-reviewed articles, patents, preprints and journals

[Natl. Science Digital Lib.](#) Science, technology, engineering and math

[Intute](#) [Science, engineering and technology](#) hub

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health and life sciences

[Intute](#) [Health and life sciences](#) hub

[Fealth](#) Health-specific search engine and [directory](#)

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law

[FindLaw](#) Search U.S. cases, codes, news and commentary

[Intute](#) [Social sciences: Law](#) hub

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arts and humanities

[Intute](#) [Arts and humanities](#) hub

[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) Browse peer-reviewed, continually-updated entries on contemporary philosophy

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## The timeliness of information that I need is...

today

[Google News](#) Top news stories auto-generated every 15 minutes

[NewsNow](#) Worldwide news auto-generated every 5 minutes

[10x10](#) Explore machine-compiled single image composed hourly of 100 words and pictures that "matter most" on a global scale

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recent

[Yahoo News](#) One month archive with editor-created "roundups" in [Full Coverage](#)

[World News Network](#) Click a category (below news item) to gather related news or images, select Mon-Sun to track story's development

[Google News](#) Click on "related" (below news item) to see story's development

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historical

[American Memory](#) Search America's primary source documents and images, browse by topic, time period, medium or place

[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Drill down into the [history](#) section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "terrorists" not "Righteous Path")

[Digital History](#) High-quality historical resources, primary sources, multimedia, subject guides

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ancient

[Ancient History Sourcebook](#) Search online ancient-history texts, images, audio, or browse by region, period (e.g., Persia, Late Antiquity)

[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Drill down into [ancient history](#) section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "Greece" not "Spartan women")

## I need facts...

a person

[Biography.com](#) Search 25,000+ biographies by name, keyword and profession

[Who2](#) Search for famous people with "four good links" to more information

[Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online](#) Search biographies from Canada's history (16th-20th century)

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a place

[CIA World Factbook](#) Select country for basic profile and transnational issues

[Country Studies](#) [Cross-search](#) or view a country (last update 1998) - historical, social, economic, political and national security data

[Stately Knowledge](#) Basic U.S. state facts, links to state government site and encyclopedia (IPL KidSpace)

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a company

[NYPL: Searching for Company Information](#) Find company information based on your need

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general reference answers

[Ask.com](#) Find a fact, biography, statistic or conversion, or reference answer

[Columbia Encyclopedia](#) Find basic information

[Yahoo](#) Learn [shortcut words](#) to get quick answers

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news background (facts, people, and documents)

[Intute Behind the Headlines](#) Editor-compiled background for headline news

## I need opinions and perspectives...

I want **opinions** on current issues

[Yahoo News](#) Browse columnists and cartoonists, or search [Opinion](#)

[HeadlineSpot Opinion/Editorials](#) Browse opinion/editorial in U.S. and some international newspapers

[PollingReport](#) Browse results of U.S. public opinion surveys

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I need news from **other countries' perspectives**

- [World Press Review](#) Get nonpartisan summaries of views outside U.S.
- [Newspaperindex](#) Browse selected world newspapers
- [ABYZ News Links](#) Browse international broadcast and Internet news, newspapers, magazines, and press agencies

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I want multiple perspectives on **hot social and political topics**

- [Social Issues](#) Links to pro/con on current social issues
- [Public Agenda](#) Analysis of public attitudes on social issues with overview, pro/con, organization links
- [UN News Centre: News Focus](#) Browse for UN-related issues by region, country or topic

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I want to **compare news treatment**

- [Newseum](#) Compare news reporting on U.S. front pages
- [PressDisplay](#) Compare news reporting from 55 countries

## I need a specific type of media...

maps

- [Google Maps](#) Search and view satellite and street-level maps (repeat in [Yahoo Maps](#))
- [MapMachine](#) Search, browse and print country, physical and political maps
- [American FactFinder Maps](#) See trends/patterns when you superimpose chosen geographical features and census data on U.S. maps

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photographs and visual images

- [Google Image Search](#) Use [advanced search](#) to limit by size, coloration, file type
  - [Yahoo Image Search](#) Use [advanced search](#) to limit by size and coloration
  - [Flickr](#) Search users' photos by their subjects ("tags"), then choose a subtopic ("tag cluster")
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fine art

[Artcyclopedia](#) Search (e.g., artist, medium, movement, subject) or browse for digitized art and online exhibits, see [actual size](#)

[ADAM](#) [Search](#) (refine by subject, depicted person, place or organization), or browse (subject headings, historical period, resource type, geographical area) digital museums and art libraries

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videos

[Yahoo Video Search](#) Search by keyword or phrase, use [advanced search](#) to limit by file format, size, duration and domain

[Truveo](#) Video-only search engine, [advanced search](#) limits by title, description, actor, director, genre, duration, quality

[Internet Archive: Moving Image Archive](#) Search public domain films, newsreels, ads, documentaries, television series and other "cultural artifacts"

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radio

[PublicRadioFan](#) Find public radio programs and podcasts worldwide

[Podcast.net](#) Search or browse podcasts

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music

[AltaVista Audio Search](#) Search for MP3s and other types of music files, limiting results by file type and song duration.

[Google](#) To find song lyrics, search (in quotes) title or performer (plus) "song lyrics," to find information about the song's history search title (in quotes) and "origin"

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sounds

[FindSounds](#) Get sound effects and music samples: select a keyword or search a term limited by file format, quality and size

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speeches

[American Rhetoric](#) [Search site](#) or browse categories of full-text, audio and video of American public speeches, lectures, debates, interviews, events

[History and Politics Out Loud](#) Search or browse full-text public-domain audio with transcripts of 20th century political and historical events, personalities, and protest songs

[American Memory](#) Find [sound recordings](#) of American primary source speeches

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quotations	<a href="#">Bartleby.com Quotations</a>	Search classic passages, phrases and proverbs (1901 edn.)
	<a href="#">Quotations Page</a>	Search word, phrase, author within or across quotation collections
	<a href="#">Quoteland</a>	Search by keyword or browse topics, authors

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statistical data	<a href="#">Statistical Information (NoodleTools)</a>	Links to statistical databases and advice on locating and understanding data
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dictionary or thesaurus (for definitions, etymology, pronunciation, synonyms)	<a href="#">Yahoo Reference</a>	Definitions, etymology, synonyms (English and Spanish) and audio-pronunciation
	<a href="#">Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus</a>	Definitions, etymology, synonyms and audio-pronunciation
	<a href="#">WordCentral</a>	Definitions with pictures (student dictionary)

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encyclopedia	<a href="#">Columbia Encyclopedia</a>	Factual information (updated 6/05)
	<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	Volunteer-created and collaboratively edited: valuable for current topics (e.g., people in the news), technology (e.g., podcasting) -- information quality uneven

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almanac data	<a href="#">Country at a Glance (U.N.)</a>	Basic country profile, use <a href="#">InfoNation</a> to compare data from 6 countries
	<a href="#">Information Please Almanac</a>	Statistical and factual data -- beware popup minefield

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books and other printed works	<a href="#">WorldCat</a>	Search for books and reviews, options to refine results, check your local library's holdings
	<a href="#">Google Scholar</a>	Search (free and fee) scholarly works, locate related information using "cited by" links, use <a href="#">advanced search</a> to limit (author, date, phrase, in title, subject area)
	<a href="#">A9</a>	Search for books by keyword, then "Search Inside!" to see keyword-in-context

## I have special search requirements...

run my search **periodically** and be notified of new results

[GoogleAlert](#) Run Google search of 3 interests and get e-mail or RSS notification of new results

[Google Alerts](#) Run periodic Google searches and get e-mail (no RSS) notification of new results

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specify a **country** where my search results are located

[Google](#) Limit by domain ([advanced search](#)) or by country ([Language Tools](#))

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use a search engine **outside the U.S.**

[Search Engine Colossus](#) Browse search engines and directories from countries and territories

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find sites organized by the **Dewey Decimal System** or **Library of Congress Classification**

[Virtual LRC](#) Select Dewey Decimal number before searching

[INFOMINE](#) Drill down into [Library of Congress Classification directory](#)

[BUBL LINK](#) Select "DeweyClass" from dropdown menu in Advanced Search

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locate resources by **file type**

[Google](#) [Limit search](#) by file type (.pdf, .ps, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .rtf)

[Yahoo](#) [Limit search](#) by file type (.html, .pdf, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .xml, .txt)

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## I am...

a kid

[KidsClick!](#) Find kid-friendly sites with educational content (grades K-7) selected by librarians

[Yahoo Kids](#) Select from kid-safe sites (grades 2- 7) organized by topic

[Ask for Kids](#) Search by keyword, then select the best-match question for answers and links

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pretty new to the Internet

[Google](#) Largest general purpose search engine

[Yahoo](#) Large, general purpose search engine

[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Easy-to-navigate, well-annotated directory of librarian-selected Web sites

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an Internet wizard

[Exalead](#) Configure highly-specific searches including proximity ("folk tales NEAR sun"), but smaller index than Google or Yahoo

[INFOMINE](#) [Configure a narrow search](#) of a large, comprehensive academic virtual library (Web sites, databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, directories of researchers)

[JUX2](#) Compare results to Identify the strengths of Google, Yahoo and MSN for your search



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