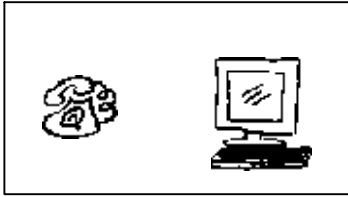


Glendale College Library Information Competency Workshops

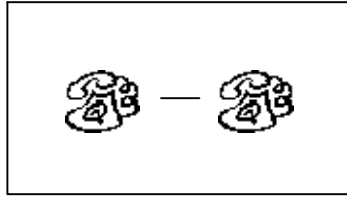
Internet Essentials

The Internet is . . .

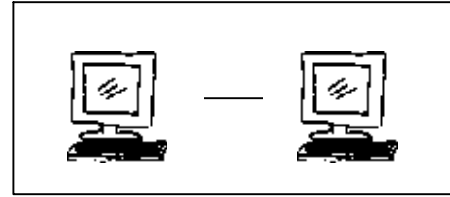
a very large collection of computers all over the world which are connected to each other, similar to the way phones all over the world are connected for global communication. The Internet includes: email, World Wide Web, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards and other forms of communication.



Alone - can't talk to anyone



Telephone Connection
= Communication



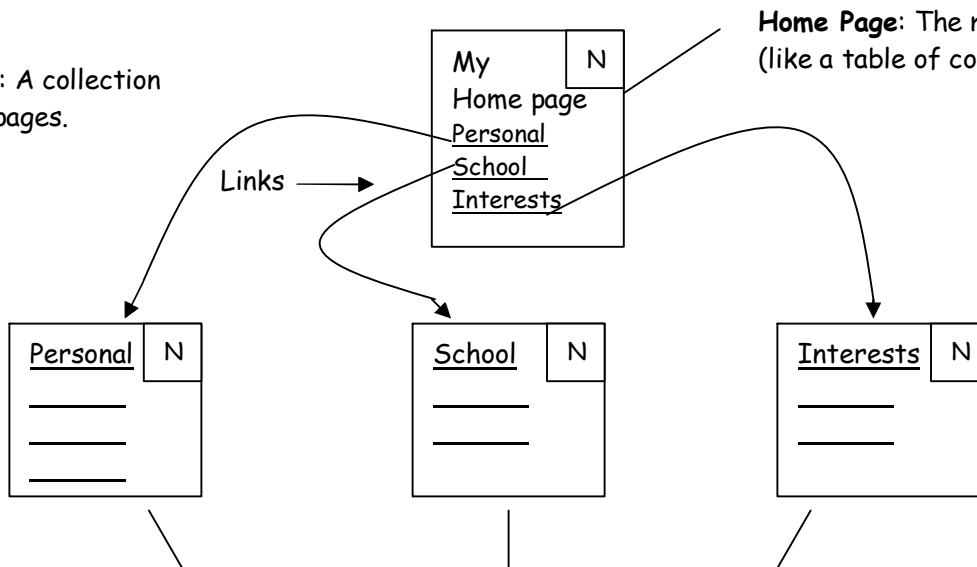
Internet Connection
= Communication

The World Wide Web

The Web is actually a collection of files stored on computers (called servers) which are all connected by the Internet. People create the files on their personal computers and then place the files on the servers so others around the world can gain access to the files.

Some important terms related to the World Wide Web are: Web Site, Web Page, Home Page, Web Browser, HTML, URL, Domain, and Link.

Web Site: A collection of linked pages.



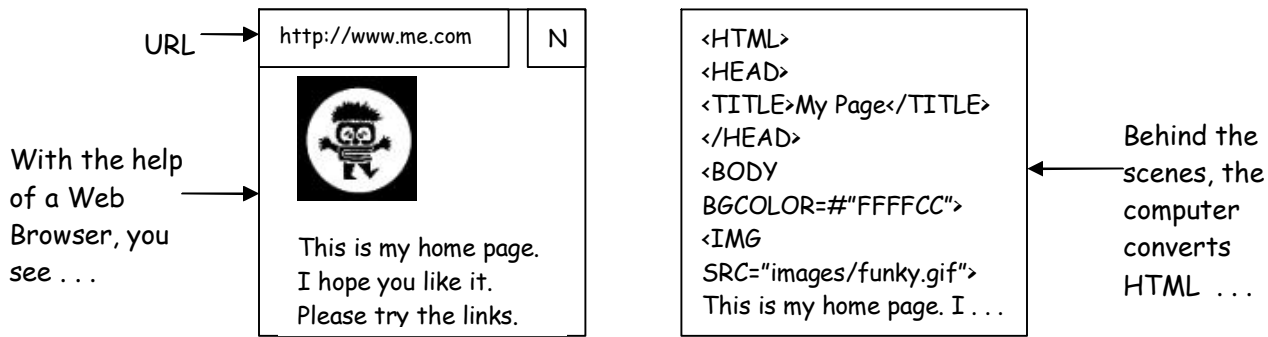
Home Page: The main page of a Web Site (like a table of contents in a book).

Web Page: An individual page from a Web Site (like a page in a book).

Links are sometimes underlined, but not always. In some cases a link will change color when you roll your mouse over it. If you're not sure something is a link, try it. Even pictures can be links.

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) uses codes or tags to tell a **Web Browser** how to display text and graphics contained in a Web document. An HTML document is usually called a **Web Page**.

A **Web Browser** (Netscape, Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Camino, etc.) translates **HTML** so you can view it on a monitor.



The **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator), also known as the **Web address**, identifies a Web page's exact location on the Internet. For example, we can learn several things from the following **URL**.

In: <http://www.glendale.edu/library/search/index.htm>

http:// indicates this is a Web document

www.glendale.edu is the server name (name of the host computer and the general Web site for the college)

library/ and *search/* are subdirectories

index.htm is the file name

So, we see that an educational institution, Glendale Community College, hosts this site. We are in the library's part of the Web site, and we are looking at an index page.

Within a **URL**, the **Domain** is important and can help you evaluate the contents of a Web site. Some examples of domain names are:

Domain	Meaning	Domain	Meaning
.edu	educational site	.org	non-profit organization
.com	company site	.net	network operations
.gov	government site	.us, .uk, etc.	country designation

Subject Directories vs. Search Engines

Both are used to search the World Wide Web, but there are major differences between the two. Think of a Subject Directory as a place to browse for useful information, as you would in a book's table of contents. Using a Search Engine is more like looking at the index in the back of a book for something very specific. Subject Directories are also sometimes called Subject Indexes.

Subject Directories	Search Engines
smaller database of Web sites than search engines	larger database of Web sites than subject directories
database compiled by people	database compiled by computer program not people
Web sites evaluated and placed into categories with hierarchical levels	no personal evaluation of each site
good starting place for pre-evaluated, informative Web sites on a topic; good place to browse	good place to search for a specific Web site
Examples:	Examples:
Librarians' Internet Index - http://lii.org	Google - http://www.google.com
Open Directory Project -- http://dmoz.org	AllTheWeb - http://www.alltheweb.com/

Exercise Objective: This exercise teaches you how to analyze URLs in order to help you identify useful results and determine if your search needs to be revised.

On page 2 of the *Internet Essentials* handout, review the section on URLs and Domain.

1. What can you tell about these Web sites from looking at these URLs?

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm

<http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/eq/e-imgindex.html>

http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_armstrong_louis.htm

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/>

http://us.imdb.com/top_250_films

2. Now, go to the Web site for each URL above and see how close you were. Which part(s) of the URL is (are) most important in helping you determine what the Web site will be about?

Exercise Objective: In this exercise, you will use and compare various World Wide Web search tools in order to 1) understand the scope, content, and organization of these search tools and 2) choose the appropriate tool to help you get information effectively and efficiently.

Subject Directories:

Choose one of these Subject Directories to complete 1 through 3 below:

Librarians' Internet Index:	http://lii.org
Open Directory Project	http://dmoz.org

1. Using the Subject Directory you chose, locate Web sites on **banned books**. How many did you find? _____
_____ Did you search for this topic by clicking on categories or typing the phrase in the Search box? _____
2. What's another word or phrase you could use to search for information on banned books?

3. Write down the URL of one of the Web sites you found. From the URL, determine what domain this Web site is in, and which country the Web site originates from, if possible. (Remember to use your handout.) <http://> _____

Search Engines:

Choose one of these Search Engines to complete 4 below.

Google	http://www.google.com/
AllTheWeb	http://www.alltheweb.com/

4. Using the Search Engine you chose, again locate Web sites on **banned books**. How many did you find? _____

Comparing the Two Search Tools:

5. Did you find more Web sites on this topic using the Subject Directory or using the Search Engine?
6. Do you think you would get the same results with other topics? Why or why not?
7. Which search tool (Subject Directory or Search Engine) is easier for you to use? Why?