Locating Specific Online Resources

What do you need to know?

While you are taking either an online or a hybrid course, chances are good that you'll want to locate additional information about course topics in order to complete assignments, learn more about difficult concepts, or further explore topics that interest you. If you have access to the Internet, then looking for such resources on-line is a natural! You won't necessarily find everything you are looking for online...the library is still an incredible resource...but sometimes you'll find just what you need!

Need some help?

A search for information on the Internet typically starts by opening up your favorite Web browser and using a "search engine." These are special Web sites that enable you to search the Internet for a specific piece of information. There are MANY search engines out there with a variety of features. They all work basically the same on the front end. They present you with a small form in which you type some keywords. You then click on a "Search" button and off goes the search engine to find Internet sites that contain some reference to the terms you entered. You then scan through the search results and click on a promising looking reference, which will take you to that site.

Here is an example of one of the most widely used search engines, Google. To search using Google, you type a keyword or keywords in the text box and then click on the Google Search button. In this case, we are trying to find information about horticulture.
Since such a search can often provide thousands of results, you'll want to learn how to refine your searches and use the search engines' advanced features to get the info you are looking for. It is all much easier than it may sound and the ability to conduct efficient, effective Internet searches is a valuable skill...one you'll use over and over again, in and out of class!