Worksheet:
Comparing Library Databases with Web Search Engines

Part 1: Search for Information in a Library Database
FiSH is a great database for beginning your research (though not necessarily your only stop). It searches for articles from most of Lakeland Library’s databases all at once. This means you may get various types of sources, depending on your search terms and strategy (e.g., scholarly articles, newspapers, and magazines).

As you evaluate each source’s relevance, consider its audience and purpose. (NOTE: FiSH results can be limited by “Source Type” - e.g., scholarly articles, magazines, newspapers, etc.).

To get to FiSH:
• To access the library’s site in myLakeland, go to the Lakeland Community College homepage (http://lakelandcc.edu/).

Find and click the myLakeland icon in the QuickLINKS menu on the left side of the LCC homepage, and login to myLakeland.

Once you have logged-in to myLakeland, find and click the library icon under the QuickLaunch/QuickTools menu on the top left side of the screen.

Once you are on the Library Home page in myLakeland, you will be ready to begin your searches. You’ll find the FiSH search box at the top of the center column on the Library Home page.

Search FiSH:
• Enter keywords relevant to your topic in the search box. Click “Search.” What kinds of results do you see? (Generally avoid using long strings of words; selective use of a few keywords usually improves search results.)

  • Add an additional search term. How does that change the results?

  • Explore other search options. Note the search strategies that improve or weaken the relevance of your results.

Choose an article:
Find an article that appears especially relevant to your topic. Follow the links for full text. If there is no link to the full text, use the Full Text limiter to find an article that has full text.
Answer the following:
What is the article title and publication source?

Who is the intended audience? How can you tell?

What is the purpose of the article? Is it informative or persuasive?

State briefly how you might use this source to strengthen your presentation. (Your answers to some of the previous questions about the source may help with considering this.)

Part 2: Search for Information on the Web
In order to put your results into a broader context, search for information on the Web.

Searching Google
• Point your web browser to www.google.com.
• Try the same search you did in FiSH.
• Consider how the information retrieved from Google might be used as further evidence in your information investigation.

Choose a result:
Find a web source that appears especially relevant to your topic. Answer the following questions:

URL:

Does the site have an author? If yes, who? What do you know about this person/publisher?

Who is the intended audience? How can you tell?

What is the purpose of the web page or website? Is it informative or persuasive?
State briefly how you might use this source to strengthen your presentation. (Your answers to some of the previous questions about the source may help with considering this.)

**Searching Yippy**
- Point your web browser to [www.yippy.com](http://www.yippy.com).
- Try the same search you did in FiSH.
- Consider how the information retrieved from Yippy might be used as further evidence in your information investigation.

**Choose a result:**
Find a web source that appears especially relevant to your topic. Answer the following questions:

- **URL:**
- Does the site have an author? If yes, who? What do you know about this person/publisher?
- Who is the intended audience? How can you tell?
- What is the purpose of the web page or website? Is it informative or persuasive?

State briefly how you might use this source to strengthen your presentation. (Your answers to some of the previous questions about the source may help with considering this.)

**Part 3: Think and Evaluate**
1. How does the information found through Google and Clusty compare with that retrieved from the library’s FiSH database?
2. How do your search experiences in Google, Clusty, and FiSH compare?

3. Describe 1-2 differences and 1-2 similarities between the type of information you located through FiSH and the information found through Google and/or Clusty. Do these differences suggest anything about how to use library databases or web search engines for your academic work?