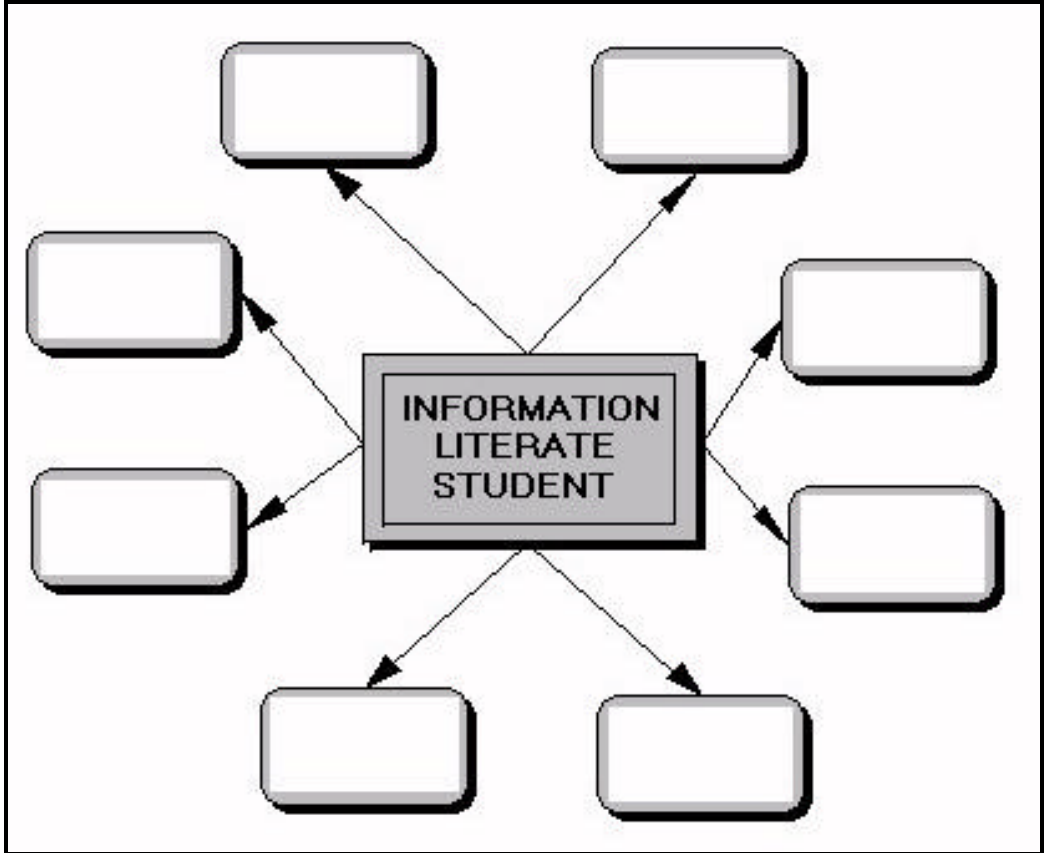
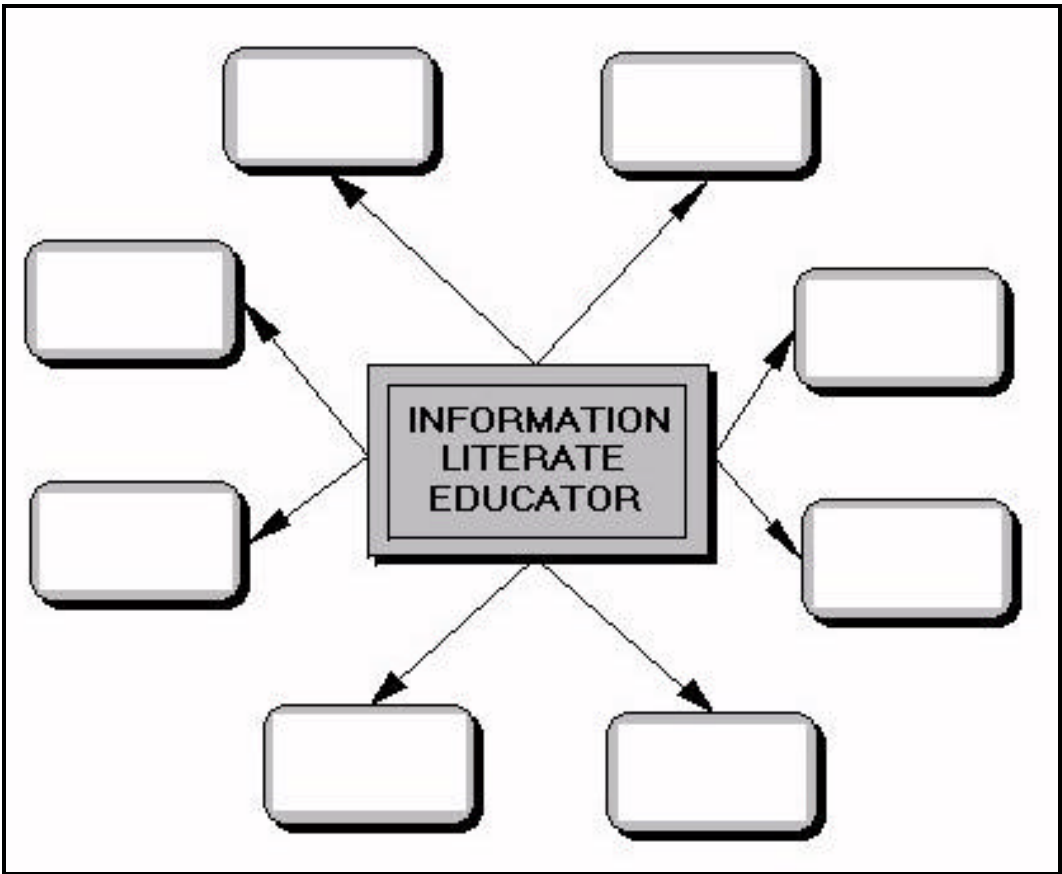


**What does it mean to be
information literate?**

**Presented by
Kathy Schrock**



Information Literacy Team Assignments

Below are the topic/topics for each team's research assignment.

An information literate student...

Team 1

- recognizes the need for information
- formulates questions based on that need

Team 2

- identifies potential and appropriate sources of information
- accesses a wide range of sources of information

Team 3

- develops successful search strategies

Team 4

- uses critical thinking in information problem solving

Team 5

- evaluates information during all phases of information problem solving
- recognizes that accurate information is the basis for intelligent decision making

Team 6

- engages in independent, self directed learning

Team 7

- has knowledge of methods which promote ethical information use

Team 8

- approaches information problem solving in a dynamic and reflective manner
- integrates new information into an existing body of knowledge

Team 9

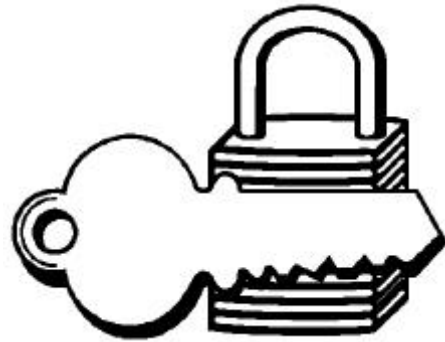
- organizes information for practical application and presentation

Team 10

- considers the information needs of others when communicating and presenting

Unlocking the Keywords

To begin to search for information, it is important to be able to identify the main words, called keywords, in a sentence.



Once the keywords are identified, it is easier to identify other words that may be used to look for information about a topic.

In the sentences below, underline the keywords in each sentence, and list two or three other words dealing with the topics of the keywords.

1. There are many trading card games students like to play.

Other related words: _____

2. Motocross bicycles are very popular with students in grade four.

Other related words: _____

3. One of the favorite playground games during recess is tag.

Other related words: _____

4. The "Harry Potter" series of books are being read by many students.

Other related words: _____

5. Yahoooligans is a directory of Internet sites for students.

Other related words: _____

6. The Internet is a worldwide network of computers which are all hooked together.

Other related words: _____

Search Strategy Plan

1. State your problem in one sentence

2. Places you plan to search

3. Brainstorm keywords/topics

Main Idea

Keywords	&	Keywords	&	Keywords
	&		&	
or		or		or
	&		&	
or		or		or
	&		&	

Consider synonyms, related terms, phrases, alternate spellings, plurals/singulars, truncation

4. Topic vs. keyword search (directory or search engine)

5. Refine your search online by considering
other usable keywords

terms to broaden and narrow

related names/proper nouns

6. Evaluation (offline)

What worked/what didn't

What to do next time

BOOLEAN SEARCH STRATEGIES

How do I narrow a search using "and"?

- Using *and* will only provide links to sites which have BOTH of these words present



How do I narrow a search even more?

- Using *and* twice will limit the search even more
- You will only get pages that include all THREE of the terms



How do I narrow a search using "not"?

- Using *not* narrows the search by telling the search engine to exclude certain words
- AltaVista uses the form *and not*



How do I broaden a search?

- Use of the word *or* will broaden a search
- Use *or* if two words may be used interchangeably
- Can use *or* more than once to get very broad



WEB SITE EVALUATION

Location

URL of the page http:// _____

Name of the page: _____

Technical and Visual Aspects of the Web Page

- Does the page take a long time to load?
- Are any important pictures labelled with a caption?
- Is the spelling correct on the page?
- Are there headings and subheadings on the page? Are they helpful?
- Is the page signed by the author?
- Is the author's e-mail address included?
- Is there a date of last update? Is the date current?
- Is the format standard and readable with your browser?
- Is there an image map (large clickable graphic w/ hyperlinks) on the page?
- Is there a table on the page? Is the table readable with your browser?
- If you have graphics turned off, is there a text alternate to the images?
- On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page?
- Are the links clearly visible and explanatory?
- Is there a picture or a sound included? Can you be sure it has not been edited?
- Should you accept the information as valid for your purpose?



Content

- Does the title of the page indicate the content?
- Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page?
 - When was the document created?
- Is the information useful for your purpose?
- Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else?
- Would information somewhere else have been different? Why?
- Did the information lead you to other sources that were useful?
 - Is a bibliography of print sources included?
- Is the information current if that is important to your purpose?
- Does the information appear biased because of the use of certain words?
- Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?
 - Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page?

Authority

- Is it easy to tell who created the page?
- Can you tell what organization is the person affiliated with?
- Has the site been reviewed by an online/print reviewing agency?
- Does the domain (i.e. edu, com, gov) of the page influence your evaluation of the site?
- Are you positive that the information is true? How can you prove it?
- Can you verify the information in a reputable print source?
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CRITICAL EVALUATION STRATEGY

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Information Literacy

Searching and Evaluation

- **AltaVista Advanced Search Page**
- **Google Advanced Search Page**
- **AlltheWeb Advanced Search Page**
- **Hot Bot Advanced Search Page**
- **Vivisimo MetaSearch Advanced Page**
- **Google Newsgroup Archives Advanced Search Page**
- **Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators: Critical Evaluation**
- **Feline Reactions to Bearded Men**
- **NoodleBib MLA Bibliographic Citation Creator**
(*subscription site*)

Educational Subject Directories

- **AskERIC Advanced Search Page**
- **Education Week Archive Search**
- **Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators: Educational Portals**
- **Education World**
- **Model Information Literacy Guidelines (CO)**

Training Handouts and Site

- **Information Literacy Workshop Packet in PDF Format**
- **Slide Show in PDF Format**
- **Information Literacy eBoard**
- **Valenza and Schrock Information Literacy slides in PDF format**
- ***Information Literacy Primer* article**
- **Kathy's books dealing with information literacy**

Created by Kathy Schrock ©2001-2002

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URL: <http://kathyschrock.net/infolit/>