Finding the Best of the Internet

PRESENTATION FOR THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE
BY WENDY SIMMONS INFORMATION RESOURCE OFFICER, U.S. EMBASSY, BANGKOK
Information Literacy

- In the 21st century, literacy is not enough for success
- (In U.S.) Information literacy is now part of the curricula for children, adolescents, adults
- Includes computer literacy and other kinds of IT (phones, etc.)
- Trains user to challenge authenticity, reliability and validity of *ALL* info sources
- Information literacy keeps people up to date and is the basis for lifelong learning
Internet Statistics – Users in Singapore

- June 30, 2008 → 1.463 billion people use the Internet according to Internet World Stats
- 2000, approximately 1,200,000 users
- 2009, estimate 3,370,000 users
- Growth 180 %, 72.4% of the population
- Only Japan and South Korea had higher % of users, 75.4% and 77.3%, respectively
## INTERNET USAGE STATISTICS
The Internet Big Picture
World Internet Users and Population Stats

### WORLD INTERNET USAGE AND POPULATION STATISTICS

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attica</td>
<td>981,002,342</td>
<td>4,514,410</td>
<td>67,371,700</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>1,392.4%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>3,908,070,063</td>
<td>114,304,000</td>
<td>738,257,230</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>546.9%</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>803,350,858</td>
<td>105,036,033</td>
<td>418,023,796</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>297.8%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>202,887,000</td>
<td>3,284,500</td>
<td>57,425,046</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>1,046.2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>340,831,831</td>
<td>1,068,986</td>
<td>252,908,000</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>134.9%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
<td>566,862,488</td>
<td>18,068,019</td>
<td>179,034,179</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>990.8%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania / Australia</td>
<td>34,700,201</td>
<td>7,620,480</td>
<td>20,970,490</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>175.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORLD TOTAL</td>
<td>6,767,805,208</td>
<td>360,985,492</td>
<td>1,733,993,741</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>380.3%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
1. Internet Usage and World Population Statistics are for September 30, 2009.
2. CLICK on each world region name for detailed regional usage information.
3. Demographic (Population) numbers are based on data from the US Census Bureau.
4. Internet usage information comes from data published by Nielsen Online, by the International Telecommunications Union, by ONS, local Regulators and other reliable sources.
5. For definitions, disclaimer, and navigation help, please refer to the Site Surfing Guide.
6. Information in this site may be cited, giving the due credit to [www.internetworldstats.com](http://www.internetworldstats.com). Copyright © 2001 - 2009, Miniwatts Marketing Group. All rights reserved worldwide.
Internet - Resources

- Number of web pages is approximately 52 billion
- Size of web pages (number of bytes) tripled since 2003
- Number of objects in pages to download has doubled
- Response time for users better on broadband, worse for slower connections
- Java script (type of coding), Images, graphics, videos increased and size of these files also increased
First Stage of Research

Learn the basics of your topic through a trusted reference book (sometimes in print!):  
http://www.merriam-webster.com/  
Encyclopedias  
http://www.infoplease.com/  
http://www.answers.com/
Fundamental Searching Concepts

- Use specific terms in searching, then expand or contract as needed
- Learn how to use your browser, most often it is Internet Explorer
- Learn features of the search engine
- Evaluate your results
- Evaluate each site you go to
Search Engines

- Google: Is the biggest, but only 20% of the web is found by Google, to be complete, you must use other search engines, such as:
  - Yahoo
  - Ask.com
  - About.com
- Learn how to use them at: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html
- Another: Clusty
Top 105 results of at least 352,700 retrieved for the query **singapore foreign relations** (details)


1. [GeographyIQ - World Atles - Asia - Singapore - Foreign Relations](#)
   Singapore - Foreign Relations (Notes) - FOREIGN RELATIONS : Singapore is nonaligned ... World > Asia > Singapore > Foreign Relations (Notes)

2. [Volume XXVI](#)
   Foreign Relations, 1984-1990; Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore; Philippines ... Malaysia-Singapore ... Foreign Press Centers

3. [TradeWatch: Singapore](#)
   Economic information, travel advice, and diplomatic relations between Australia and Singapore. From the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

4. [exun.com - Singapore - Foreign Relations](#)
   Singapore, Republic of Singapore ... History | Geography | People | Economy | Government | Political Conditions | Foreign Relations | Defense | Ranking | more...
   [www.exun.com/Singapore/op_fan_1.html](http://www.exun.com/Singapore/op_fan_1.html) - [cache] - Ask

5. [The Singapore Commentator](#)
   Singapore's foreign relations and its economy ... Singapore Embassy in Jakarta attacked over dumping allegations. The Singapore Embassy in Jakarta was attacked by a group of demonstrators on
   [sg-comment.blogspot.com/2003/03/singapore-foreign-relations-and-its.html](http://sg-comment.blogspot.com/2003/03/singapore-foreign-relations-and-its.html) - [cache] - Ask

6. [Germany](#)
   Includes an annual brochure on German-Singapore relations.
   [www.singapore.dipl.de](http://www.singapore.dipl.de) - Open Directory

7. [Foreign Relations of Singapore Encyclopedia II - Foreign relations](#)
   Foreign relations of Singapore - APEC. The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is based in Singapore. Singapore will be hosting the APEC forum in 2003 ... Foreign relations of Singapore,
   [www.experiencefestival.com/id/6057843](http://www.experiencefestival.com/id/6057843) - [cache] - Ask
Next Step: Evaluate (any) Information

Look at:

- Accuracy
- Intended audience
- Bias
- Currency
  - But the best is to

- Use a portal for finding good web sites
Portals – Doors to the Good Stuff

- The source will identify itself clearly
- Gather in one place the best sites on a topic
- Maintained by experts in the topic
- Best organized & most recommended sites
- The best evaluated
- Purpose, goal, operation will be clear
Some General Portals

- [http://ipl.org](http://ipl.org) The Internet Public Library (becoming [http://ipl2.org](http://ipl2.org))
- [http://www.dmoz.org/](http://www.dmoz.org/) Open Directory Project
- [http://vlib.org](http://vlib.org) Highly regarded sites all topics
- [http://scout.wisc.edu/](http://scout.wisc.edu/) Highly evaluated sites described
- [http://www.refdesk.com](http://www.refdesk.com) Links to the best research works online
- [http://www.headlinespot.com](http://www.headlinespot.com) News
Examples of Subject Portals

- http://www.law.cornell.edu/  Law
- http://www.eldis.org  Development resources
- http://globaledge.msu.edu/  Int’l. business
- http://www.poynter.org  For journalists
- http://medlineplus.gov/  Medicine
- http://www.plos.org/  Science publications
- http://oct.mit.edu  Online / Distance Education
- www.free.ed.gov  Resources for teachers
- http://www.usa.gov/  Anything from the US gov
Third Step: When You Find a Site You Like

Consider the
- Quality of the information
- How it is organized
- Know the bias of author / organization
- Credibility of the author / organization
- Security for user
- Timeliness
(~15.5 billion pages indexed by Google)

Don’t stop here!
More Google Searching Options

Allintitle: allintitle: searchengines
Allinurl:  allinurl: google search
Site:  dinosaur site:si.edu ; admission  
site:www.stanford.edu
Maps:  Bangkok map
Definitions:  define compatibility
Weather:  weather Hanoi
Phrase searching:  “Internet in Singapore”
Time:  time Washington, DC
Google materials

- Google products
  - Images
  - Shopping
  - Videos
  - News
  - E-mail (gmail)
  - Google scholar – millions of full-text scholarly documents
  - Document sharing
  - Many ways to collaborate with others

- Understand how it operates, and how commercialization changes results
Wikipedia

- Launched 2000
- Are now 3 million + articles in English
- Developing in many other languages (600,000 Chinese, 460,000 Russian, etc.)
- Contributors are the general public, editors are now more professional
National Library, Singapore

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Singapore National Library)

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Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (September 2009)

The National Library (Chinese: 国家图书馆, Malay: Perpustakaan Negara) in Singapore is located on an 11,304-square metre site between Bugis Junction and the Bras Basah Complex at 100 Victoria Street. The new building, a 16-storey, two-block development situated in the city's Civic District, replaces the old National Library at Stamford Road, which closed on 31 March 2004.

The library moved to its new home on 22 July 2005. It is the flagship building of the National Library Board, it brings together the core functions of the old library by incorporating a reference library, known as the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, as well as a public library, the Central Lending Library (CLL) under one roof. Its collections totalled around 8.9 million items in 2005.

Contents

1. Current building
2. History
3. Libraries
   3.1 Central Lending Library
   3.2 Lee Kong Chian Reference Library
   3.2.1 Sections
4. Drama Centre
5. External links

Current building

The building consists of two 16 storey blocks, with three basements. The blocks are linked by skybridges on every floor. It houses two libraries, the Central Lending Library in Basement 1 and the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library from Levels 7 to 13. It also houses the Drama Centre from Levels 2 to 5, which is managed by the National Arts Council. On the 16th floor, there is a closed viewing point called The Pod. It is only used for functions and events.
Learn the Features of Wikipedia

- Citations at every article
- Anyone can edit – if you have a specialty, contribute!
- Front page offers news, general categories, becoming a contributor, and links to many languages
- News, history and current science information
- Pictures
- Reference desk
- Wiki Foundation products: dictionaries, quotations, directory of species, media resources, etc.
- Mailing lists (i.e. Wonders of the World)
Why Is It a Problem?

- Takes seriously the spirit of the Internet
- Free information often not valuable
- Reliance only Wikipedia for information is a problem
- Founders expect honesty, contributions are for the common good, writers use their real names and be factual
- It is not possible to carefully monitor a huge project
- Many jokes about it
  - Still, probably no other source as updated or as comprehensive as this

YOU have to make it better
Ethical Use of Internet

- Honor copyright
  > Copyright is protection provided by laws to the authors of "original works of authorship" including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, architectural and certain other intellectual works
  > What is not copyrighted are materials in the public domain

- Avoid plagiarism
  > In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.
    
    
    Council of Writing Program Administrators

- Online material is protected equally to print!
Citations for Online Works

- Same components as other citations: author, title, complete name of work, date is *more* important, so both last update and date of access
- US academics have more than one format
- [http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html](http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html)
CITATION BUILDER

Enter Information for a Web Site

*Required Field

First Author: Ho
Second Author: Amirthanayagan
Organization Name: US Embassy Singapore
Organization Location: Singapore
Web Site Title: Capitalize the first word, then use all lower-case letters except for proper nouns.
Date of Publication:
CITATION BUILDER

Web Site Citations

MLA Style:

APA Style:

CBE/CSE Style:

For more examples and comprehensive discussion of CBE/CSE formats, see http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/publications/citing_internet.cfm

Chicago Style:

Bibliography (Notes and Bibliography System):

References List (Author-Date System):
Cautions on Copyright for Online Works

- Absence of copyright notice means nothing – the work is assumed to be protected
- Permission must to use for publication must come from copyright holder
- It includes any graphic material on the Web
- Cite source using accepted bibliographic citation practice
- E-mail the author of Internet material to ask permission to use his / her online work
- **Do not assume that no reply equals permission**
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS??

Thank you