Internet search techniques

Web addresses are called URL's or Universal Resource Locator.

Reading a URL address

http://www.centraltafe.wa.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx

- type of site
- name of server
- subdirectory
- file on server
- world wide web
- domain name
- country
- extension
  - .edu = education
  - .com = commercial
  - .gov = government
  - .org = organisation
  - .mil = military

A Web search engine is a tool designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. The search results are usually presented in a list and are commonly called hits. The information may consist of web pages, images, information and other types of files.

Search engine indexing collects, parses, and stores data to facilitate fast and accurate information retrieval.

Describe what you need with as few terms as possible.

The following is a list of some search engines:

- **Google** is a web search engine owned by Google, Inc., and is the most-used search engine on the Web.
- **bing** (formerly Live Search, Windows Live Search, and MSN Search) is Microsoft's web search engine
- **Yahoo** is a popular internet content provider, originally a search engine/website directory
- **WebCrawler** offers a single source to search the Web, images, video, news from Google, Yahoo!, Bing, Ask and many more search engines.
- **Ask.com** (or Ask Jeeves in the United Kingdom) is a search engine started in 1996.

**Twitter** and **facebook** include search function

**Guidelines for better search**

- Keep it simple
- Think how the page you are looking for will be written
- Describe what you need with as few terms as possible
- Choose descriptive words.
Basic search
Search is simple: just type whatever comes to mind in the search box, hit Enter or click on the Search button, and it will search the web for pages that are relevant to your query.

Specific search
To search for an exact phrase put it within QOTATION MARKS
Example: “concrete construction”.

‘+’ operator
This forces words to be included in the search results pages.
Example: “concrete construction” +formwork
“concrete construction” +formwork +au
“buildings” +pdf

‘-’ operator
This will do the exact opposite of the ‘+’ sign, any words you do not want included in the search results must have a minus sign after it.

‘~’ operator
This will sort synonyms of the words you are searching for.
Example: “laying bricks” ~hints may return results with the word “tips” instead of hints, but still find you results around laying bricks.

Boolean words (AND, OR, NOT) allow you to narrow or expand your search. Type these words in CAPITAL LETTERS in between your keywords and see what you get:

AND
Example: construction AND tilt-up

OR
Example: construction OR tilt-up

NOT
Example: construction NOT tilt-up

* wildcard
Use an asterisk (*) with at least 3 letters when you want to find variation on a word
Example: build*
(will give and other similar words never search the plural of word, use the * and get both forms.

Use image or pictures ⇒ type the word Image: in front of your query.
Example: Image:buildings

Use define for that links to the words or phrases (does not work with google).
Example: define:buildings

Use site to search for a specific site
Example: search:tafe publications