



The Information Specialist's Guide to Searching and Researching on the Internet and the World Wide Web

By Ernest Ackermann, Karen Hartman

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For information specialists - researchers, librarians, and those whose work involves working with information - this text shows how to find answers to research and reference questions, as well as how to find e-mail addresses, maps, and shareware programs. Several different types of information resources - subject guides, search engines and specialized databases - are discussed, along with research skills and strategies. Help in evaluating sources is provided. Step-by-step activities are provided for most of the major search engines, directories, virtual libraries, and other information resources on the Web and the Internet.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Ackermann (computer science, Mary Washington College, and author of numerous books pertaining to programming and the Internet) and Hartman (Simpson Library, Mary Washington College) refreshingly steer clear of the particulars of Internet technology in this straightforward treatise on searching and research. There is no mention of Java, CGI, or TCP/IP. Instead, the focus is on search engines, Boolean operators, web site evaluation, and Internet resource identification. Roughly half of each chapter consists of step-by-step exercises in defining and resolving a research problem. The authors stress techniques and principles but also indicate some of the best sites for seeking various kinds of information. The instruction occasionally flags, e.g., when it fails to explain the extremely exclusive nature of the Boolean NOT operator. More often, though, the text is thorough and reliable. The illustrations, Netscape Navigator 4 screen reproductions, are clear but often too tiny for comfortable reading. (Throughout the text, Navigator 4 is the assumed browser, with variations for version 3 and Internet Explorer 4 given when appropriate.) Useful appendixes, a glossary, and a chapter on citation styles round out an accessible and informative work. (Updates and previews are available at .) This guide is essentially a textbook that would be optimally used in a hands-on classroom setting by computer and Internet novices, but experienced Internet librarians will appreciate its detailed, methodical approach. Motivated students and public library patrons may also find it useful.

Dean C. Rowan, Whittier P.L., CA

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James Newman:

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