

## **Search Engines (30 minutes)**

**Purpose:** Introduce students to search engines for gathering information from the internet.

**Resources:** Enough computers to have at least one per every two or three students, preferably one per student.

**Prior Knowledge:** The students were already exposed to Yahoologans previously and had time to do one simple search.

### **Procedure:**

1. With Yahoologans up on the big screen ask the students, “what did we call a site like this?”
2. After eliciting Search Engine, ask them what a search engine searches.
3. If they come up with “internet” or “computer” use those to springboard into the next step, otherwise write “internet” up on the board.
4. The Internet is a collection of lots of computers, just like the library is a collection of lots of books. Using three different dictionaries as examples ask one of the students to give you an animal they are studying. Look up the animal in each dictionary and then read the definition. Ask the students “are they all different in some way?”
5. “If I looked in another book, would it be a little different still?”
6. Compare the different dictionary to different computers or websites. Each computer on the internet has different information, but there are millions of computers. The search engine lets us look through those millions of computers for just what we want.
7. Show them examples of different kid-safe search engines (Kid's Click, Yahoologans, Ask Jeeves Kids, Cyber-Sleuth). Do a simple search using the same animal and point out that each of the results are a different computer, just like the different dictionaries.
8. Ask them, “could there be another way to find information besides typing in a search topic?”
9. After eliciting responses based on their library experience focus their attention on reference sections and organized directory.
10. If time let them search around for information and experience how each search engine is different.