



GOOGLE VS THE INVISIBLE WEB

This chart summarizes major distinctions among open internet and closed invisible web information resources.

	SEARCH ENGINES	GOOGLESCHOLAR	SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES
Example	Google Bing	GoogleScholar	Education Full Text Web of Science
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer programs called spiders or robots gather information on the Internet. • Information is kept in a searchable database but resources are not usually indexed or categorized • The WWW continues to grow at an incredible rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer programs called spiders or robots identify, crawl and index internet sources and publisher sites. • GS works with publishers, libraries and other information providers to determine where crawlers can go and what content is searchable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content editors, publishers, or vendors determine what is indexed in subject or multidisciplinary databases • Indexes are not accessible to web crawlers • Information sources are updated as new issues of publications are released
Resources Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current news and public opinion pieces • Personal, government, trade, professional association, research centers, and university sites/content. • Anyone can publish pages to the web creating a level of uncertain reliability, accuracy, and authoritativeness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including theses, books, abstracts and articles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including theses, books, abstracts and peer reviewed journals, conference proceedings, reports, etc. • Magazines and newspapers may be included.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can search through openly available, digitized collections and scholarly content within such databases as ERIC or PubMed Central • Openly available resources, including academic and commercial websites and social networking sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishers maintain control over access • May include citation, abstract and/or full text of the resource • Links to subscription databases to find full text availability may be added in Search Preferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proprietary, fee-based access requires association with subscription users and login • Access varies from title to title, publisher to publisher • Find it @ UF (OpenURL link resolver) identifies full text availability of specific journal needed based on library or consortium access
Searching Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited searching capability, but allows language, location, usage and date limiters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited searching capability, but allows journal title, subject and date limiters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust search features include field searching and other limiters for efficient searching

Special Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little functionality with other library tools (e.g. bibliographic management tools) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers “cited by” feature, providing access to abstracts of articles that have cited the article being viewed • Allows related and recent article searching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often includes a thesaurus or controlled vocabulary for terms • Allows use of special features such as cite options, export to bibliographic management programs (e.g. RefWorks), and auto-fill of resource data for Interlibrary Loan requests. • Some databases offer "cited by" and related articles features
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EVALUATING YOUR RESULTS

Are you getting the best information available in a web search?

Sometimes the most authoritative and accurate information is not freely available on the web. Consider the following when reviewing your results:

Who is the author?

- Look for a signed webpage. Any page without an author makes the information suspect.
- Consider the level of authority, expertise and responsibility of the author.

Who publishes or maintains the website?

- Authoritative and well known agencies often provide more reliable information than hobbyists or special interest groups.
- Give preference to government, trade, professional association, research centers, and university sites.

Is the site well maintained?

- If you encounter dead links, consider that a reputable, active site will ensure links are up to date.
- Reliable sources will revise sites often and list last updated information.

Is the information needed current?

- Current news and public opinion can be found online and via library databases. Backfiles are held in library databases.

Is the information biased?

- Look for the purpose of the site and investigate the author to discover if there is a viewpoint they wish to endorse.