Internet Basics

Using web browsers and finding information online
Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of class students will:

• understand the basic components of a web browser
• be able to enter queries in a search engine
• have tools for evaluating a website
• know how to navigate online forms
• know where to look for further help and learning
How does the internet work?

Device
- Phone
- Tablet
- Computer

Physical Connector
- WiFi - wireless router
- 4G - cell phone tower

Internet Service Provider
- Comcast
- Connexion
- Pulse
- CenturyLink

Internet
- Global connection of computer servers
Connecting to WiFi

• Select Wireless icon
• Choose network
• Private network: Enter password
• Public network: Click "Continue" or "Agree"

Locate the wireless icon in your system tray.
Web Browsers

• A browser is software designed to access websites via the internet.
  • Examples: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple’s Safari, Brave

Look for browser icons on your desktop. Choose a browser and open it.
Tip! Keyboard Shortcut: Use the Ctrl key and the + or – key to zoom in and out.
Web Addresses

Website addresses indicate where a website "lives" in the form of a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).
Every website has a unique URL.
http://www.example.com

Extensions:
• .com (commercial) coloradoan.com
• .net (general use) fortcollinsclub.net
• .org (organizational) poudrelibraries.org
• .edu (educational) colostate.edu
• .mil (military) army.mil
• .gov (governmental) whitehouse.gov
• .eu/.uk(European/UK) bbc.co.uk
What is a hyperlink?

• A **reference** that takes you from one point to another.
• A hyperlink often has blue text and is **underlined**.
• When you hover over a hyperlink, your mouse icon will change from an **arrow** to a **hand**.
• Images may be hyperlinks as well. A common hyperlink on websites is the logo which returns you to the homepage for that site.
Using the web

• 3 options
  – Search engine
  – Exact web address
  – Address bar search
A search engine is a program that looks for items in a database to match a query.

Online search engines include:

- Yahoo!
- bing
- Google
- Ask
- DuckDuckGo
- Ecosia
Try a Google Search. Can you identify the ads on the page?
What types of content appear on the results page?
DuckDuckGo Results Page

Try the same search in DuckDuckGo. How do the results differ?
Search Tips

- Identify keywords
- Be specific
- Use synonyms
- Use quotation marks for phrases
- Conduct several searches
- Use search limiters
Tip! Use Ctrl + F to open the Find feature. This allows you to type in the exact words you are looking for on the webpage.
## Evaluating sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the author's name on the page?</td>
<td>Is there a date for when the page was made?</td>
<td>Is the website easy to use?</td>
<td>Is the information correct?</td>
<td>Does this website provide better information than you would get from books or other sources?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the author list their experience, position or education?</td>
<td>Is there a date for when the site was last updated?</td>
<td>Can you easily find information?</td>
<td>Is the information easy to read and understand?</td>
<td>Is the website interesting and engaging?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there contact information for the author?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Does the page take a long time to load?</td>
<td>Are there links to more information?</td>
<td>Is this website helpful for your project?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Downloading & Uploading

While working online you may need to download a file to your computer or upload a file to a website or email. Let's practice these important skills.

- Navigate to poudrelibraries.org
- Visit the Computer page
- Click on Online Tutorials
- Choose the Computer Comfort handout
- Look for the download option in your browser

- Navigate to poudrelibraries.org
- Visit the Computer page
- Click on Mobile Print
- Click on "Select File"
- Choose the Computer Comfort handout
- Click on Open
Creating Online Accounts

Online account registration forms may require any of the following:

- Name
- Email/Username
  - Not case sensitive
  - Unique
- Password
  - Case sensitive
  - Can include letters, numbers, or symbols
  - May have length requirement

![Create your account form](image)
Example Form

- Asterisks indicate items are required
- Password requirements must be met to create account
- Confirmation boxes help make sure information entered is correct
Security Questions

- Information unique to you.
- Questions used to:
  - Access account if password is forgotten
  - Verify you are account holder
Captcha

- Security check often found at the end of forms.
- Verifies user is a human not an automated computer system.
Additional Resources

- **The Library** - Librarians, books, databases, computer classes
- **Poudrelibraries.org** - Access to online tutorials and databases
- **GCFLearnFree.org** - Free, high quality, innovative online learning for technology including courses on web browsers and social media
- **TechBoomers** - Online articles and courses for learning how to use technology and apps
- **LearnMyWay.com** - Step-by-step courses for building computer skills
- **LinkedIn Learning** – Video courses including many different computer programs and career skills
- **DigitalLearn.org** - Free online technology courses including introductory courses on YouTube and Google Maps
Questions? Comments?
Did we meet your needs?

* [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021PRPLD](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021PRPLD)