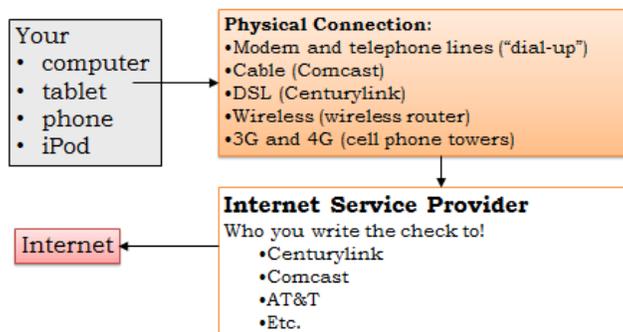


Intro to the Internet

*This class will primarily use Internet Explorer and Google.

I. What is the Internet?



- The **internet** is the physical connection of cables, servers, modems, routers, and computers that form a huge network.
- The **world wide web** is the virtual collection of linked webpages and websites (which are actually files) that can be accessed over the internet.
- Why use it? To look up directions, tax and legal forms; to use online banking; to shop; to connect to people with social media; to access television, music, movies, and news.

II. What is a web browser?

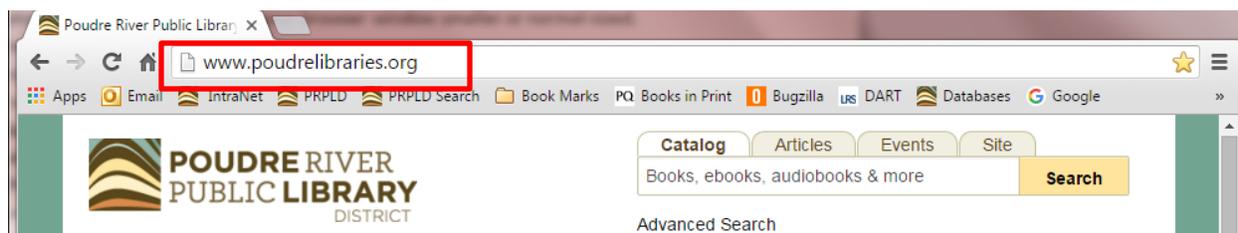
- A piece of software that uses a special transfer protocol (**http**) to send and receive information and converts HTML, a web markup, into the visual display we see on a webpage. (In other words, a browser helps you find websites on the **world wide web**.)
- Examples: Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari



Try it out! Click on a browser button on your desktop.

III. How do I use a browser window?

- Minimize:** hides your browser but doesn't close it. Click the browser icon on the **taskbar** to open it again.
- Restore Down/Maximize:** makes your browser window smaller or normal-sized.
- Close:** quits your browser.
- Scroll bar:** click and drag this to move up and down the page. (You can also do this by using the scroll wheel on your mouse.)
- Tabs:** use these to have multiple browser windows open at once.
- Back/Forward:** takes you to previously viewed websites.
- Refresh:** reloads a webpage.
- Home:** takes you to your browser's home page (different page for different computers).
- Menu bar:** use to print, copy, paste, zoom in and out, change the text size, bookmark a page, delete browsing history, and more!
- Address bar:** find the address of the site you're visiting, or type in new address



Try it out! Test all these buttons.

IV. What is a hyperlink?

- A **reference** to data that links you to another website, webpage, or document (it takes you from one point on the web to another).
- A hyperlink often has blue text and is underlined.
- You can follow a hyperlink by clicking on the blue text. When you hover over a hyperlink, your mouse icon will change from an **arrow** to a **hand**.



V. What does a website look like?

Most websites have a similar layout and share similar features.

- Search Box:** search the site for keywords or phrases.
- Top/Bottom Navigation Menu:** helps you find pages/information within a site.
- Main body:** the content and text of a site.
- Banner or Logo:** click on this to return to the home page of the site.
- About Us:** shows information about the company.
- Contact Us:** the company's phone and fax numbers, email address, and often a form you can fill out online.
- Social Media Links:** links to the company's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube accounts, etc.

Try it out! Try to find all these elements on the library website.

VI. What is a web address?

- A uniform resource locator, or **URL**, that takes you to a specific website or webpage.
- Usually includes the following: **http://**, **www**, a **domain name** (the name of the site or organization) and an **extension**.
- Extension examples: .com (commercial), .net (network or internet service provider use), .org (organizational), .edu (educational), .mil (military), .gov (governmental), .eu (European)
- https** indicates that the site is a secure site

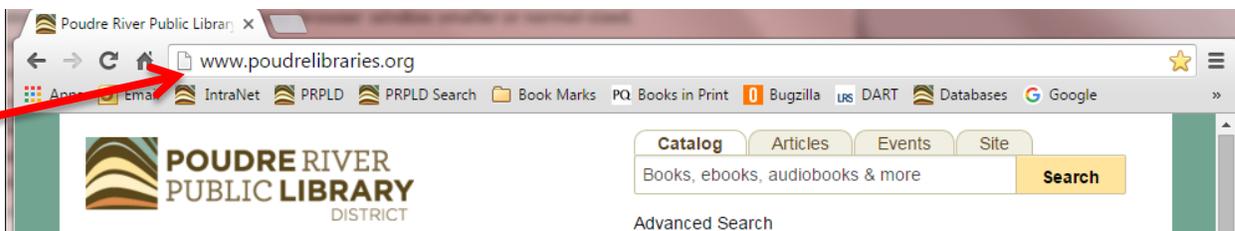
VII. What is a search engine?

- A program that **searches** for items in a database (or, something that helps you search for information on the world wide web).
- Examples: Google, Bing, Yahoo, Ask, AOL



VIII. How do I search the web?

1. If you know the exact **web address**, type it in the address bar (you can use http:// and www. but it is not necessary for most websites)



2. Go to a search engine and type in your query into the **search box**
3. You can even use the address bar at the top of your browser to search the web without an address!

Try it out! Search for the City of Fort Collins website one of these ways.

IX. Search Terms

- a. Identify your key words
- b. Don't worry about a/an/of/the words
- c. Put it in quotations if you need the exact phrase
- d. Use "and" to connect two terms

X. How do I use search results?

- a. The name of a website or its pages will usually be in **blue text** and will contain hyperlinks.
- b. The site's URL will be in **green**.
- c. There is usually a description of the site or helpful text underneath the URL.
- d. Some results will list **subpages**, or pages located within the site.
- e. Many searches will bring up ads and shopping results, located on the top and right-hand side of the screen. Look for **thin lines** that separate those types of results.
- f. You can **narrow your results** with the options at the top of the page. You can search for pictures, videos, news, and more.
- g. Use the **Search Tools** button to narrow results further. You can specify location, time period, etc.

XI. Evaluating Websites

- a. Author/organization name and contact info included?
- b. Review the "about us" page
- c. Is the information presented correct?
- d. Is there a date that tells you when the page was updated?

XII. Try it out, type the following websites into your address bar and evaluate the site.

Website:	Your evaluation:
1. 3riversstadium.com	
2. martinlutherking.org (warning: some explicit language)	
3. lifevantage.com	
4. bbb.org	
5. feastingfortcollins.com	
6. find a reliable website on the topic of composting	

XIII. On your own:

- a. Lynda.com-through the library's website
- b. Digitallearn.org
- c. Gcflearnfree.org



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Reasonable accommodations will be made for access to programs for

A joint-use facility of


**FRONT RANGE
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people with disabilities. Please call 970.674.6740 for assistance.

Evaluating Web Sites

Authority	Yes	No
1. Is the author's name on the page?		
2. Does the author list their experience, position, or education?		
3. Is the author's e-mail address on the page?		
Currency		
1. Is there a date that tells you when the page was made?		
2. Is there a date when the site was last updated?		
Design		
1. Is the web site easy to use?		
2. Can you easily find information?		
3. Does the page take a long time to load?		
Content		
1. Is the information correct?		
2. Is the information easy to read and understand?		
3. Are there links to more information?		
Conclusion		
1. Does this web site provide better information than you would get from books or other sources?		
2. Is the web site interesting and engaging?		
3. Overall, is this web site helpful for your project?		