

---

# BPSD Technology Publication

---

# Search Engine Smart

---

Prepared by Ron Nordstrom, Technology Coordinator ph. 476-3305 rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca

---

## Using Search Engines

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

#### What is a search engine?

Programs that employ specialized software to scan the Web looking for information on Web pages.

#### What is an example of a search engine?

You may have heard of Yahoo, Infoseek, Magellan, Dogpile, MSN, Yahooligans, Google, AltaVista, Ask Jeeves, and many other search engines.

#### Are all search engines the same?

No. Different search engines operate on different criteria. If you can't find something on one search engine, try another.

#### Are there some Kid Safe search engines?

Sure, many search engines have a family setting that you have to go in and manually set on each machine. For example with the **Google** search engine (<http://www.google.ca>) you can click on the preferences button to the right of the search bar and set preferences. By default, moderate filtering is set. Click on the strict filtering button (shown below) on each machine your students are using. Unfortunately, students can easily change these preferences as well.

With **AltaVista**, (<http://www.altavista.com>) you can set a password so others can't change the family filter preference.

Similarly with **Lycos**, (<http://www.lycos.com>) the **Parental Control** is called **SearchGuard**. When you turn it on, you can filter categories shown on the right, and set a password so students can't change the settings. If you **insist** that students search with **Lycos**, you should be fairly safe.

SearchGuard is ON **SearchGuard**

**SearchGuard Preferences**

Turn SearchGuard...

OFF  LEAVE ON

Submit

**Filter Settings**

If you are leaving SearchGuard on, change your settings here and click submit. If you are turning off SearchGuard, checked items are presets that are saved for the next time SearchGuard is activated.

Disable access to Lycos chat and Lycos mail

Filter out violent content

Filter out hate and racist content

Filter out content about weapons

Filter out sexually oriented content

Select All of the Above

Submit

Lycos SafeGuard feature

**SafeSearch Filtering**

Google's SafeSearch blocks web pages containing explicit sexual content from appearing in search results.

Use strict filtering (Filter both explicit text and explicit images)

Use moderate filtering (Filter explicit images only - default behavior)

Do not filter my search results.

Google Strict Filtering Preference Setting

## Kid Friendly Search Engines

Other search engines are always kid friendly. You may wish to insist that your students use these search engines when doing research on the Internet. Three that I know about and use are:

**Ask Jeeves for Kids** <http://wwwajkids.com>  
**Yahooligans** <http://www.yahooligans.com>  
**CleanSearch** <http://www.cleansearch.com>  
**KidsClick!** <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!>

Of course, if you want to ensure safe surfing, **nothing can replace good supervision**. Develop class rules or policies where if a student encounters an objectionable site, they immediately hit the back button and inform the teacher. If hitting the back button doesn't get rid of the site, they should shut off the monitor and inform the teacher.

### **The Internet is a great resource if used properly. Safe Surfing!**

---

If you are interested in more information on Search Engines, here are two good web sites that will provide you with information:

**Search Engine Watch**  
<http://www.searchenginewatch.com>

**The Spiders Apprentice**  
<http://www.monash.com/spidap.html>



## Looking for Pictures for a Class Project?

Many can be found at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Click on Images, then type in the picture you are looking for. Another good site is [www.pics4learning.com](http://www.pics4learning.com) There you can find good royalty free pictures.

## Looking for a good starting Place for Web Browsing?

Try the Beautiful Plains Web Page. Follow the Teacher Resources link or go to [www.bpsd.mb.ca/Teacher Resources](http://www.bpsd.mb.ca/Teacher_Resources) You will find links to web sites on various topics such as Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, Senior 3 History, Lesson Plans, K-3 sites, 4 – 6 sites, Dinosaurs, Games and Puzzles, Web Page Creation Resources, and much more.

