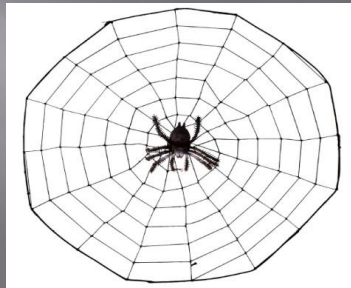TLR

Transportation Librarians Roundtable

14 February 2013

Invisible Web Super Searcher

Jennifer Klang, Head, Reference Services, U.S. Department of Interior
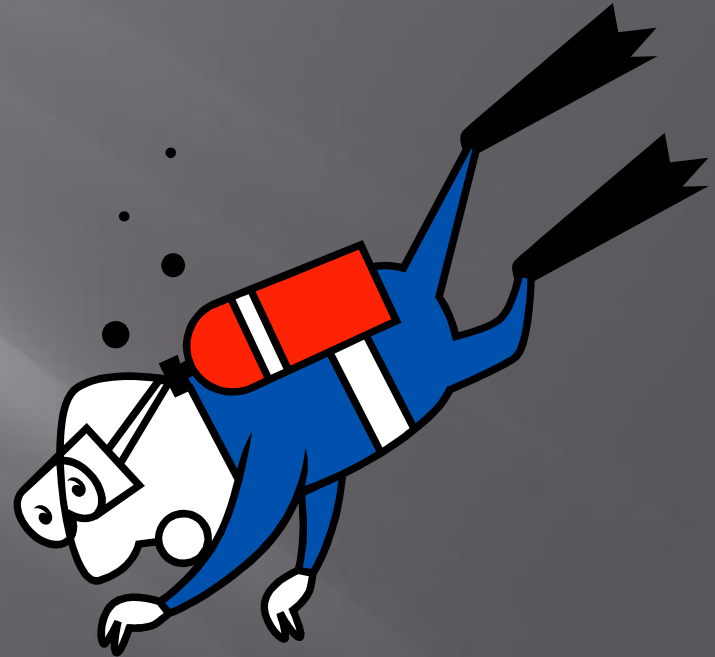
INVISIBLE WEB SUPER SEARCHER

Super Searcher Hints For More Effective Results

Jennifer Klang – Head of Reference Services

What Is It?

➢ Content that does not get indexed or queried by search engines and is not retrievable by current-generation search engines.

➢ Content that resides in searchable databases that produce dynamic results.

Examples

- Professional online services

- Databases within web sites

- Information that requires a password to retrieve

- Discussion forums and bulletin boards

- Sites or parts of sites that were unavailable when the search engine crawled them (may also be recently added)

More Examples...

- Pages or documents excluded due to search engine policy decisions

- Sites that reside on an intranet or behind a firewall

- Archives

- Many interactive tools

- Pages buried many levels down in a site

- Non-html format documents

Deep Web Is Useful When…

➤ Your normal search engines aren't cutting it

➤ You need an exact answer

➤ You need data/statistics

➤ High quality or authoritative results are needed

➤ You know the subject well

➤ You want more current information

➤ You want to browse collections of materials (images, etc.)

Should I Use a Search Engine?

➤ All-purpose tools.

➤ Best suited for taking paths where few other people had tread before

➤ Information that few people have dealt with before and is unlikely to be found in a directory

➤ Expect higher retrieval numbers

Should I Use a Directory/Portal?

➢ Directories are a good starting point for researching things that often been dealt with before.

➢ Directories yield less retrieved items / higher quality information.

➢ Portals are a good source for up-to-date information that changes too rapidly for search engines to keep up

When Should I Use Google?

- Use Google when you know exactly what you are looking for.

- When searching a term or word/phrase sequence that will appear on all results pages

- When there are not many often-used synonyms or alternative terms

- Dealing with information is public (not proprietary or confidential)

Strategies for IW Searches

- Use search engines to get to helpful sites
  - Environmental Policy AND database
  - Endangered Species AND database
- Look at Individual sites to see how they are arranged
- Look for statistical or topical lists
- Use the advanced search function to search for databases
- Follow Professional Pubs and listservs

Recommended Invisible Web Sites

- Google Scholar
- Science.gov
- Internet Archive
- OAIster (OCLC)
- Mamma.com
- Complete Planet
- Ipl.org

- InfoMine
- DeepDyve (S&T)
- Scirus (S&T)
- Hathi Trust

Federal Government Resources

- Science.gov - Interagency Initiative – 17 Government Science Orgs. & 13 Federal Agencies
- UScodeBeta.house.gov – New cite includes links and Pop. Names
- FDSYS
- Thomas.loc.gov
- USA.gov
- NTIS.gov