

Finding a Needle

Searching

Using the major search engines on the Web, find the best way to look for a needle. Fill out the following chart, noting the number of *hits* you receive in each of the search engines for the word needle and the phrase "Space Needle." Then, answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

Search Engine	Search for: needle	Search for: "Space Needle"
Google		
All The Web		
Yahoo!		
MSN(searchbar)		
Lycos		

1. Which search engine would be the best if you were looking for something very obscure(out of the ordinary)? _____

Why? _____

2. Did searching for "Space Needle" always result in more hits or less hits than searching for needle? _____

Why? _____

3. Which search engine seemed to display the result fastest? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

4. Try another search. This time, look for sites that contain all of these words: needle, sleeping, and beauty. (Hint: On many of the search engines you can specify that certain words MUST be included by adding a + in front of the word: +needle +sleeping +beauty.)

What search engine did you use? _____

How many sites did it reveal? _____

5. If you used a site from the 1st activity above, were your results what you predicted? _____

Why or Why Not _____

Meta-Searching

Using the major meta-search engines on the Web, find the best way to look for a needle. Fill out the following chart, noting the number of *hits* you receive in each of the search engines for the word needle and the phrase "Space Needle." Then, answer the questions at the bottom of the page. Some will not give you a total, so do your best to add up the results and give a good estimate.

Search Engine	Search for: needle	Search for: "Space Needle"
Ixquick		
Vivisimo		
Fuzzle		
DogPile		
ProFusion		

1. From what you can tell why would you use a Meta-Search engine instead of a regular one? _____

2. Did searching for "Space Needle" always result in more hits or less hits than searching for needle? _____

Why? _____

3. Which search engine seemed to display the results fastest? _____

Why do you think this is? _____

4. Try another search. This time, look for sites that contain all of these words: needle, sleeping, and beauty. (Hint: On many of the search engines you can specify that certain words MUST be included by adding a + in front of the word: +needle +sleeping +beauty.)

What search engine did you use? _____

How many sites did it reveal? _____

5. Now for fun go to google.com and try to find your name.... how many results were there? _____

6. Is the way the results are listed in the meta search engines better than the regular search engines? Why or Why Not? _____
