Searching on the Internet is a lot like fishing. So let's start by talking a bit about fishing. Remember the Andy Griffin Show with Opey, Barney, Aunt Bee and Andy? Remember the theme song? Good, now here's the words to that song:

Well, now, take down your fishin' pole and meet me at The Fishin' Hole,  
We may not get a bite all day, but don't you rush away.

What a great place to rest your bones and mighty fine for skippin' stones,  
You'll feel fresh as a lemonade, a-settin' in the shade.

Whether it's hot, whether it's cool, oh what a spot for whistlin' like a fool.

Come on, take down your fishin' pole and meet me at The Fishin' Hole,  
I can't think of a better way to pass the time o' day. (They might not be the right words, but I found them on the Internet, so they just HAVE to be right!)

When you ask someone who is fishing “What are you fishing for?” you can receive several answers. Barney would have probably told you that he will tell you what he’s fishing for when he catches a fish. If he caught a wide mouthed bass, he would say he was fishing for bass, if he caught a mean old channel cat, he'd say he was fishing for catfish. Now that is how a lot of people go searching on the Internet. They know they want to go searching, but they end up fishing like Barney.

Now, on the other hand, Andy was the Sheriff and he could be a very sharp cookie. He was always catching those city slickers from Mount Pilot who came down to Maybury thinking they was gonna’ take advantage of those country bumpkins. Andy had a plan to outsmart the crooks and if Andy went fishing, he would also have a plan. First, Andy knew that if he wanted to catch a channel cat, he would go down behind Floyd’s cabin where the stream was deep and slow, with a lot of cover along the banks. If he wanted to catch some bass, he would go to the nice place behind Goober’s gas station where there was a deep pool in the water where the bass liked to relax.

See, Andy knew to go to where the fish were that he wanted to catch. It is like the Internet. If you want to find out about movies, search a database that contains information about movies, such as the international movie data base. If you want to search for a video, use a database that indexes videos.

Andy also knows, that if he wants to catch a channel cat, that he doesn’t want to use a trawling lure or a prized hand tied fly. He knows that the cats like shiny spinners for lures, and he would pick out one of his spinners with a float to keep the lure at the right depth right where the cats like to hang out. But sometimes, as Gomer Pile told Andy, he likes to use his lucky lure that the cats like to go after sometimes. It is a big bright pink lure. So, sometimes Andy will try out that odd looking pink spinner that Opie bought him for Christmas. The one with the matching tie.

On the Internet, you also have to use the right lure; however, on the Internet, we call the lures words. You must use the appropriate words in your search box on the Internet to find what you want. Think of the “official” term or terms that are used to define or describe what you are looking for. That is the lure to start with. Then if you don’t find what you’re looking for, use that good ole Boolean Algebra and add the bright pink words!

You probably won’t believe it, but fishing makes use of Boolean Algebra. For example, in Boolean Algebra you have many operands, such as AND, NOT, NOT, OR, EXCLUSIVE AND, but they
are not all useful for fishing. Two of them are extremely useful. These are AND, & NOT. Operating a boat AND drinking don’t go together very well. The AND means that both things must be present. So, if you want to search about boating but want to leave the beer at home, then boating NOT drinking would be the way to go. Those two terms would not be present on the same page, only pages about boating without mention of the word drinking would be displayed. Putting your terms in quotes searches for the exact phrase. Here is how using Boolean and quotes can help narrow your search.

At the seminar you learned that I play the saxophone. Let's suppose that I am looking for one of the most famous sax players ever, and I put that phrase into the search box. This is what I would get in return:

one of the most famous sax players ever
Results 1 - 10 of about 116,000 for one of the most famous sax players ever

Wow, that is a lot of pages to go through that contain any of those words. Let's try to narrow it a bit by searching for that exact phrase by putting quotes around it. This is what would happen then:

"one of the most famous sax players ever"
Results 1 - 8 of 8 for "one of the most famous sax players ever"

I keep seeing pages about Charlie Yardbird Parker in the returns, and I don't want to read about Parker, so I would use the NOT boolean, and put a minus sign before his name. The search box now contains this:

"one of the most famous sax players ever" -Parker
which returns one result:

Results 1 - 1 of 1 for "one of the most famous sax players ever" -Parker

and it is about Sonny Rollins.

Hum. What does he look like? I click on the IMAGES link at the top left corner of the Google search engine, and enter the term Sonny Rollins. Up pops several photographs of Sonny with his beloved Tenor saxophone. Hum, what does he sound like? Using the Google search engine again, I click on the VIDEOS link, and there are several videos of him playing the Tenor sax. I heard about Youtube, and I go to http://www.youtube.com and enter Sonny Rollins in the search box and find some more video recordings of Sonny. (Hint: Google bought YouTube some time ago, therefore one might expect to find similar results with these two indexes, but there are about 600 more hits on one than on the other.

Back to Andy. You know, there are a lot of fish in the world, and if you fish like Andy, you will probably have a great supper in a relatively short time. But, if you fish like Barney, well – you’ll probably be sitting on the riverbank for a long time and you might not like to chow down on the fish you eventually will catch. So you will have to either throw it back in and try to catch something you like, or pack everything up and stop over at the diner where Thelma works and have some grits with pulled-pork pie. You know, that doesn’t sound too bad at all! I’ll be right back........

I'm back and that was good. Had some bananas Foster for desert too. Yes, fishing is a lot like searching on the Internet. You have to have a plan to search on the Internet. Let’s get a plan together.

First, like fishing the right spot, you have to know where to look for what you want to look for. Is there a special search engine or database that indexes what you want to find? If there is, don’t go fishing in another hole. Quite a few people use the Google search engine. That’s a good place to start. But, what many don’t realize is that Google has different fishing holes built in. The next time you go to Google, look at the search box in the middle of the page. People put a word into the box, then press “Search” or
the “I’m feeling lucky” button. (The search button will give you a number of results, whereas the lucky button will take you to the top site in the list.) However, look at the upper left part of the screen. There are some links there for Images, Videos, Audio, and so on. Those are different places to go searching. So, if you are looking for videos, try searching the video stream, right next to the swimming hole. Using the Google search engine and searching for the term search engine, there are, as this is being written, \(58,100,000\) hits for that term. There are quite a few search engines out there! Think of them as different places to fish. Try a few of them out and don’t rely on only one, else you might never catch that trophy you’re looking for.

(Hint: when you get a lot of hits and you don’t want to read through the entire list that your search engine is displaying, using the CONTROL key and the F key at the same time will open a search box in your web browser that will search only what is displayed in the current page you are viewing. And, on Google, you may see the link CACHED. If you click on that, Google will return to you a capture of the page the last time Google visited the page and indexed the page. The neat trick, is that the search terms you entered into the Google search box will be outlined or highlighted in various colors.)

Now, once you find a nice search engine to use, there are a few special lures you can use to coax that fish in you're looking for and narrow down your search. To use these you use the command followed by a colon followed by the search term, without any spaces, i.e., **command:**term and here are a few examples.

**DOMAIN:**
It searches ONLY within a particular domain. For example if you were looking for Dr. Conser, you know he is a emeritus college professor, you might want to limit your searches to the world of academia by entering the following:
Domain:edu Conser.
For example, searching for CONSER on Google returns the following:
Without the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 1,610,000 for Conser.
With the filter limiting the search to academic web sites: Results 1 - 10 of about 21,600 for Domain:edu Conser.

**Country:**
This enables you to search for your term(s) ONLY within Web sites from a particular country. For example, if you ONLY want to search within Web sites in Italy you would select this filter.

Without the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 26,400 for Frissora
With the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 200 for Country:Italy Frissora
There are some site specific filters that you can use. These include myspace, facebook and such.

Here is a search using the filter myspace:frissora

Without the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 26,400 for Frissora
With the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 160 for Myspace:Frissora
With the filter: Results 1 - 10 of about 543 for facebook:Frissora

Now, it might get a bit tricky. For example, hi5 is a social networking site having the domain www.hi5.com. A search using the hi5 filter, hi5:Frissora will return the following:
With the hi5 filter used as a site: Results 1 - 10 of about 83 for hi5:Frissora
However, since hi5 is a domain, searching with the filter as a domain filter will significantly narrow your search. Using domain:hi5 returns the following:
With the hi5 filter used as a domain: Results 1 - 6 of 6 for Domain:hi5 Frissora

So, with just Frissora as a search term, you must look at over 26,000 web pages. If you know what you are fishing for, you can significantly increase the chances of catching the term for which you are looking by using filters.
Finally, we talked Andy into giving us a list of some of the search engines from his bookmarks. Now, we haven't tried a lot of these, but we have tried some, and found them really worthwhile. We suggest you try a few of them out and see if you like them. Here is a link that will help you pick out a search engine to try: http://www.internettutorials.net/choose.asp

Here are some links to try. Go ahead, take down that mouse and do some clickin' now!

Alexa:
Gives you page views of web sites

Alltheweb: (Now Yahoo)
http://www.alltheweb.com/

Altavista:
http://www.altavista.com/

AnyWho: AT&T Has Reverse Phone Lookup
http://www.anywho.com/

ASK:
http://www.ask.com/

Clusty:
http://clusty.com/
Lets you creaty a "Cloud" search:
http://cloud.clusty.com/

Debreafing:
http://www.debriefing.com/

Dogpile:
http://www.dogpile.com/

Excite: Portal Also
http://www.excite.com/

HotBot:
http://www.hotbot.com/
The original Inktomi-based search engine and is a good alternative to try when tracking down info about someone.

IceRocket:
http://www.icerocket.com/

IXQuick:
http://www.ixquick.com/

Langenberg:
http://www.langenberg.com/

Live: (Affiliated with MicroSoft)
http://www.live.com/

Lycos:
http://www.lycos.com/

Metacrawler:
http://www.metacrawler.com/

Mother of all Search Engines:
http://www.mamma.com/

Scroogle:
http://www.scroogle.org/

Search.Com
http://www.search.com/

SearchBug:
http://www.searchbug.com/
Searches for People.

Spokeo:
http://www.spokeo.com/
Spokeo is a search engine specialized in organizing people-related information from phone books, social networks, marketing lists, business sites, and other public sources. Most of this data is publicly available on the Web.

SurfWax:
http://www.surfwax.com/
Provides real-time page summaries called 'site snaps'.

Web-Search:
http://www.web-search.com/
Has a drop-down that lists several search engines.

Webcrawler:
http://www.webcrawler.com/

WhoWhere:
http://www.whowhere.com/index.jsp

Worldwide Search Engines:
http://home.inter.net/takakuwa/search/search.html

Zaba:
http://www.zabasearch.com/
Searches for People. Note, to search for dead people: http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/
The Social Security Death Index is a good place to start to determine is a person is using a fake identity.

Zillow: Real Estate
http://www.zillow.com/

END OF FILE
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