

And, finally, there is rule #11:

Use your **Home Page**. At the start of every search engine there is a home page, a first page, that does at least two things: it asks you what you want it to search for, and it gives you ways to learn more about how this particular search engine works. Search engines do *not* all follow the same organization, they do *not* all follow Boolean logic. Like people search engines differ in what makes them tick and how they are best utilized.

Finding Good Search Engines and Directories

There are three types or of tools to help you get started: **Metasearchers**, **Search Engines**, and **Speciality Directories**.

There are over 1,000 search services on the Web. They vary greatly in size and quality. For debaters and extempers just getting comfortable with computers, or still open to improving their skills, the following is a good cross-section of some of the best free tools available.

Metasearchers:

1. Inference FIND.

<http://www.inference.com/infind/>

The first search tool that calls out in parallel many of the best search engines (WebCrawler, Yahoo, Lycos, Alta Vista, InfoSeek, and Excite). They merge the result, remove redundancies, and clusters the results in understandable groups.

2. Metacrawler:

<http://www.metacrawler.com>

The home page has a lot of useful options plus the basic good search features.

3. The Internet Sleuth:

<http://www.isleuth.com/>

Extempers might want to start here if you are going to use a metasearcher because it not only has a good search ability, but also several news connections noted on its "home" or front page.

Search Links:

1. *Northern Light*. This search site has two extra features, in addition to a solid search base. First, it supplies many full articles from 3400 magazines, journals, books,

newspapers, and newswires. Second, it uses a "Folders" approach that is easily learned and helps you better organize your search.

<http://www.northernlight.com/search.html>

2. *InfoSeek*: Good news, search tips, tools. Updated daily, includes automatic name recognition in the search engine. Strong on finding all word variants (e.g. you put in "mice" it will also check "mouse"). Good for recent brinks, extemp articles.

Check : <http://www.infoseek.com> **or**

<http://www2.infoseek.com/Home/Home.html>

3. *HotBot*. Sharp web-crawling index. Has explicit Boolean searching. Usually ranked first or second-best in search engine quality polls next to AltaVista. (AltaVista is included in the Inference FIND Metasearcher). HotBot includes over 110 million pages!

Search: <http://www.hotbot.com/search.asp>

For those with a big budget **Lexis** is an up-to-date very large data base that provides full articles, not just bibliographies or abstracts. It is widely used by the richer private high schools as well as many college speech teams across the country.