SEARCH ENGINES

A **Search Engine** is a remotely accessible program that searches for information on the Internet. It is a powerful workstation-class machine that searches a database of information from the Internet. This information is collected by software programs called robots or spiders that ‘crawl’ through the files on the Internet and download them into a searchable database.

The term Search Engine is often used to specifically describe systems like AltaVista and Excite that enable users to search for documents on the World Wide Web. The use of Search Engines is a very significant aspect towards getting information ranging from research purposes to daily use such as the weather in your hometown. The ability to get information on these engines depends on experience, knowledge of certain search techniques and remembering the strengths and advantages of each engine for particular information.

There are various types of search engines: Browsable Subject Hierarchies have databases which are arranged in subject hierarchies, to facilitate browsing through the entries. Comprehensive search engines are referred to as web ‘crawlers’ and ‘spiders’.

These sites utilize automated web scouring software that follow links on the web to discover as many Internet sites as possible. Selective/Evaluation Sites are similar to the browsable subject hierarchies in that human beings are involved in selecting the included sites. Multi-Engine Search Sites provide the service of letting you run your search simultaneously in a number of search engine sites. Discussion List Search Sites are used to find Internet and Usenet mailing lists on certain subjects.