

The Internet and the World Wide Web

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ DATE: _____

The Internet is a network of computer networks. It uses computer software and hardware to allow computers to communicate with each other worldwide. Internet users can connect to computers from all over the world and can send and receive information in seconds. The World Wide Web (WWW) structures and organizes a large part of the information on the Internet in an easy to use format including text, graphics, video and audio. If you have any questions while doing this exercise, ask the librarian for assistance.

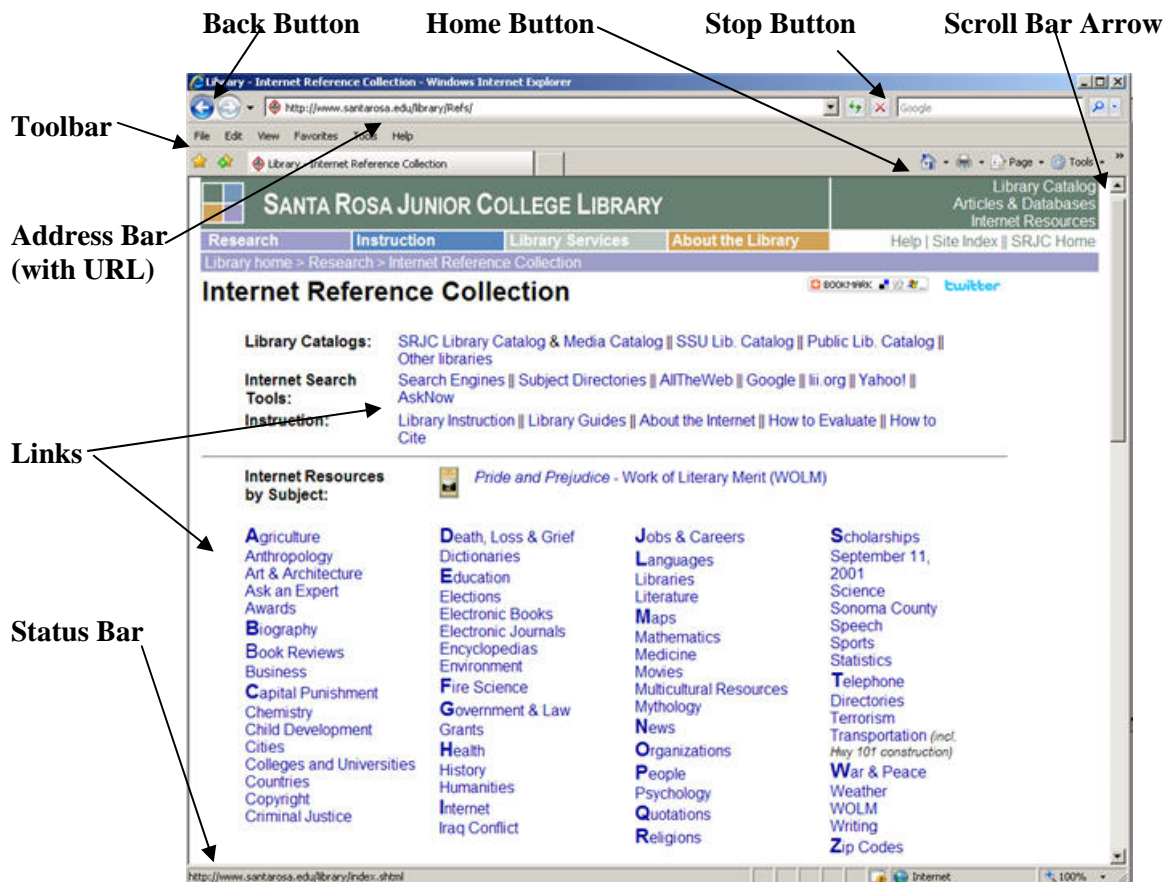
WEB BROWSERS

A software program called a **BROWSER** provides access to the World Wide Web. Browsers allow you to click on words or images to move from page to page. There are many types of browser programs, the two most popular are Mozilla's Firefox and Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

1. Go to one of the computers and double click on the **INTERNET EXPLORER** icon to view the main page (or home page) of the library's website.

From the Menu Screen under the heading **Research**, click on **Find Internet Resources**. You should see a screen that looks like the one below. Note the labeled features. You will be using these to complete this exercise.

Please Note: The screens pictured in this assignment only approximate the actual computer screens.



2. Look through the colored links appearing below the title **Internet Reference Collection**. (Links are highlighted words and images pointing to other documents on the Web.) Clicking on these links with a computer mouse selects, retrieves and displays information at other locations on the Internet.

Click on the **Statistics** link. Under Statistics there are links to many resources.

Click on **U.S. Census Bureau-Population Topics** then click on the link **Population Clocks** to view a projection for today's U.S. and World Population.

What figure does the U.S. Bureau of the Census project for the total population of the world at this moment?

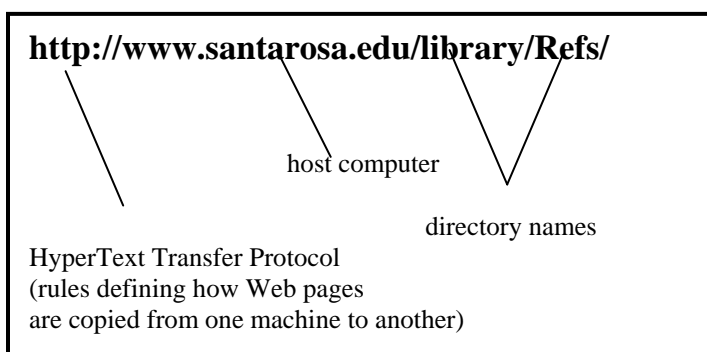
Click on the **Back** button until you return to the U.S. Census Bureau's **POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC TOPICS** page. Click on the link **Data by Subject**.

Look through the links listed and choose one that interests you. What is the title of the link?

URLs

Each LINK has a Uniform Resource Locator or URL. The URL is like an address for the link and begins with `http://` followed by letters, sometimes numbers and slashes.

For example, the URL for the Internet Reference Collection page is:



3. When you retrieve a document, the URL is displayed in the **address bar** near the top of the window.

Click in the address bar and delete the URL listed by pressing the **Delete** button.

Type in: **`http://www.secretservice.gov`**

Press the **Return/Enter** key to go to this URL.

Look for the heading **Investigations** and click on the **Know Your Money** link. Scroll through the **Table of Contents** page, select a link that looks interesting and click on it.

What is the title of the link you selected?

Give one interesting fact learned.

SUBJECT DIRECTORIES

The Librarians' Internet Index is an award winning Internet subject directory. Yahoo hosts a popular commercial directory. Directories organize links to sites in subject categories for easy browsing. Research directories (such as the Librarians' Internet Index) select high quality sources and often include short abstracts or descriptions of the sites in their collection. Commercial directories are less discriminating, and may include sites based on listing fees. Directories are a good place to start when beginning a search, to see a range of information about broad topics or to locate information on a popular subject. There are two ways to search. You can browse through subject category lists or use the Search Box to search the directory. (**Note:** This does NOT search the text of actual web pages, just information in the directory.)

4. Click on the **HOME** Button in the toolbar to return to the Library home page, then select **Find Internet Resources**. Look for the heading Internet Search Tools and click on **Subject Directories**. Read the description given. Under the heading **WWW Sources Selected by Librarians**, click on **Librarians' Internet Index**.

Find and click on the link **Reference**. Choose one of the topics listed and click on it. Scroll through the links and choose one of interest to you.

What is the title and the URL of the link?

Explore the web site and click on some of the colored links.
Give one interesting fact learned.

SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines search the Web for topics or subjects that you specify. Each search engine searches a different collection of sites, so you may want to use more than one search engine when researching a topic. Search engines do not index most major magazine and newspaper articles. The Library has online subscription databases available for retrieving these sources

5. Click on the **HOME** Button in the toolbar to return to the Library home page. At the Menu Screen, select **Find Internet Resources**. From the list of Internet Search Tools near the top of the page, click on **Google** Click in the search box, type **terrorism** then click on the Google Search Button. The search engine will search for web pages or documents related to the topic you typed.

Choose one of the sites listed in the results list. Give the title and URL (listed after the link abstract) of the site you chose.

Click on the **link** of the site you chose above. Write a brief description of the information found at the Web site for this link.

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Anyone can put a page on the World Wide Web. There is no central authority to check pages for accuracy, currency, or objectivity. While you can rely on sources like the U.S. Census Bureau, many sources have commercial, political, or other agendas that must be considered.

6. Click on the **Home** Button, and go to **Find Internet Resources**. Under the heading **Instruction**, click on the link **How to Evaluate**. Read the information and review the criteria listed.

Give what you think are the most important criteria for evaluating a web page:

You may look at other items or end your search session by clicking on the **HOME** Button in the toolbar.