Why use the WEB? How can you find what you need?

**Search Engine =**
computer program that goes crawls web and puts website in a huge database, which is searched by keywords

**Metasearch Engine =**
compiles info from many engines, best for specific information
- Metacrawler
- Ask Jeeves
  - rule-based search engine
- Google, AltaVista, Yahoo, Excite, Lycos...
  - Google = unique searches based on % of people who linked to a specific web site, rather than keyword hunt, evidence of validity & value

**Directory List =**
compilation of websites found by humans
possible human error and lack of depth
general information, reference, great for categorical info
- Yahoo, Excite, Lycos...
- Kidsclick! excellent content based directory by librarians
  - [http://www.worldofsearching.org/](http://www.worldofsearching.org/)

**Content Considerations**
- Firewalls for protection, Webquests for targetted work
- Screening methods (human vs. computer)
- Sample topics: tidepools & math
  - [http://edweb.sdsu.edu/triton/tidepoolunit/tidepool.html](http://edweb.sdsu.edu/triton/tidepoolunit/tidepool.html)
  - [http://www.wfu.edu/~mccoy/NCTM99/](http://www.wfu.edu/~mccoy/NCTM99/)

**Credits, Citation of Sources**
validate information by viewing at least three sources, including one off-line source, using same keywords/phrases

**Criteria for Evaluation**
- confirmation of information, credibility
- presentation and writing style of content
- biased? one-sided or fair coverage?
- what is the tone of the content?
- ease of navigation and layout
- visual enhancements vs. distractions