

Digital Researcher



	Exploratory Learner will	Developing Learner will	Confident Learner will	Independent Learner will	Transformational Learner will
Awareness	<p>Understand that there are websites that can be accessed on the Internet which contain information, images and video.</p> <p>Understand that information can be taken from a website.</p>	<p>Understand that information on some websites may be more reliable than others.</p> <p>Be aware that search engines rank sites according to popularity and key words rather than reliability.</p> <p>Understand that some digital content may be copyright protected and credit should not be taken for something created by someone else.</p>	<p>Understand that anyone can create a web site and publish content to it, so some content may not be reliable.</p> <p>Understand that some popular websites such as Wikipedia and YouTube are based on user generated content.</p> <p>Understand that search engines work in an automated manner i.e. rankings are not generated by people.</p>	<p>Choose and use web based resources based on their validity.</p> <p>Understand that searches can be refined using a number of tools.</p> <p>Understand that there are many ways to access information online in addition to search engines such as social networking, forums, blogs and wikis.</p>	<p>Understand how search engines work i.e. by sending out 'spiders' to index sites, and to rank them according to incoming links, keywords and other factors.</p> <p>Understand that website creators may seek to manipulate the way search engines work in order to improve site rankings.</p>
Planning	<p>Contribute to a shared list of things that need to be researched.</p> <p>Discuss how information could be researched.</p>	<p>Work independently or with other learners using appropriate software to plan what needs to be found out.</p> <p>Create a list of key questions to be answered.</p>	<p>Collaborate to produce an ordered strategy to research a specific theme.</p>	<p>Plan a detailed research strategy, taking into account the probable reliability of different sources of information.</p>	<p>Collaborate online to develop a coherent and detailed research strategy, which exploits the specialisms of the group.</p>
Skills	<p>Be able to access a website from a hyperlink.</p> <p>View, interact with and navigate selected websites guided by an adult.</p> <p>Explore and experience web based content.</p>	<p>Save a website to a favourites list.</p> <p>Choose from websites stored in favourites.</p> <p>Execute a search using key words, using an appropriate search engine e.g. Safe Search Kids.</p> <p>Choose an appropriate website from search results, knowing some websites are more suitable than others.</p>	<p>Execute a search using key words or phrases, using a search engine that they have chosen.</p> <p>Choose an appropriate website from search results, with some understanding of its validity, credibility and bias.</p> <p>Document and organise findings into digital documents, making use of appropriate tools e.g. mind mapping, note taking.</p>	<p>Save a website to favourites and begin to organise favourites into categories.</p> <p>Add most often visited websites to the favourites toolbar.</p> <p>Understand how to export and import favourites.</p> <p>Execute a search using the advanced search page options of their chosen search engine.</p>	<p>'Favourite' sites on the basis of validity.</p> <p>Know how to refine searches by using complex search operators e.g. football site:bbc.co.uk</p> <p>Contact experts online.</p> <p>Use recognised referencing systems e.g. Harvard, to correctly cite and acknowledge online resources.</p>

		Use relevant information in other documents.		Refine the search using the advanced searched features eg, language, country, last update. Enter multiple key words with Boolean refinements, eg – ‘AND’, ‘OR’, ‘NOT’ or “ “ for phrases.	
Sharing	Tell others about websites that have been enjoyed or found useful.	Add a link to a web site on a class site or hyperlinks into documents to allow others to access easily.	Add a link on a class site and provide appropriate notes to describe it. Contribute to a wiki, blog or discussion to add facts that have been researched, acknowledging sources as appropriate.	Begin to add URLs to social bookmarking sites (eg Delicious) and begin to add tags and comments. Create a wiki, blog or a discussion to gather collective knowledge on a specific topic.	Regularly add URLs to social bookmarking sites, including appropriate comments and tags and share with their network. Regularly create, contribute to or refer to online forums, blogs or wikis, adding to the body of collective knowledge.
Feedback / Evaluation	Explain why a website is enjoyed and how to find it.	Explain the tools used to conduct a search and how successful a search has been. Explain choices of a particular website over another in terms of suitability. Explain the usefulness of a particular website and describe what has been learned from it.	Explain techniques used to execute a search and describe the effectiveness of the search. Justify choices of certain websites over others in terms of validity, credibility and bias. Comment on the usefulness, validity and bias of information added to wikis, blogs and discussion.	Explain techniques used to execute an advanced search and describe the effectiveness of the search. Justify why a particular website has been added to a social bookmarking site and explain the associated tags and comments. Comment on the appropriateness, validity and bias of information posted on a wiki, blog or discussion and be willing to accept or disregard.	Use online forums, blogs and social networking to recommend online resources based on their usefulness, validity and bias. Contact website authors directly to offer appropriate feedback and suggest possible improvements.

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