

Searching the Web

Where can you find information on the Web about the Boy Scouts? Bugatti automobiles? Hybrid corn? With hundreds of thousands of Web pages available, how do you find information on a particular subject in less than half a lifetime?

To help you find specific information quickly, a handful of companies continually scan the Web. When they find new Web pages, the new pages are classified and placed in databases so you can easily search for information on any topic of interest. Each of these search facilities use slightly different methods to organize this vast body of information.

Searching Using Keywords

Clicking the Search button on the Navigation toolbar displays the search page randomly selected from among four search services. An example, the Infoseek search service, is shown in Figure 2-10. You can use this page to select another search service, or *search engine*, or you can use the provided service.

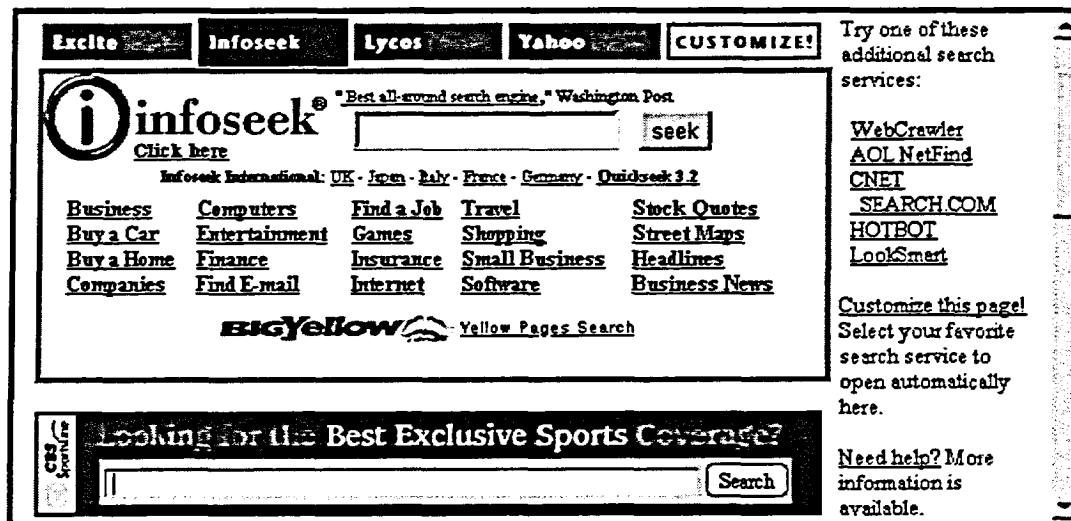


Figure 2-10: The Search Page

Once you've selected a search engine, you can enter keywords or select topics, and then search the Web for matches. Your selected search engine will retrieve matches, or *hits*, for your search criteria. Each hit contains a brief synopsis and a link to the actual site. The more specific your search criteria, the better your chances of finding exactly what you want.