



# Hostos Community College Library

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## Hostos Library Instructional Services World Wide Web: The Basics

**The World Wide Web** (WWW or Web) is a hypermedia system that allows users to exchange linked text, images and sound over the Internet. The **Web** is a collection of protocols and standards used to access information that is available on the Internet-- a worldwide system for linking smaller computer networks together. The Internet is really a network of networks; it is what we call all the computers around the world that have been connected together. What links computers together into the Internet is an assortment of telephone lines, cable lines, and satellite connections. It is important to understand that the Web is **not the same thing as the Internet**. The Web is the part of the Internet that provides images, sound, video, text, and much more. It is also the fastest growing part of the Internet. There are other activities, or protocols, that take place on the Internet including e-mail, telnet, and FTP or file transfer protocol.

The World Wide Web is a **server**. To access the **Web**, you need **client software**. This client/server model is a form of distributed computing where one program (the client) communicates with another program (the server) in order to exchange information. **Microsoft Explorer** is a client software called a "browser" that allows one to access the World Wide Web. Another browser is called **Netscape**.

The **Web** is defined by three standards: **URLs** (Uniform Resource Locators), **HTTP** (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), and **HTML** (Hypertext Markup Language).

**HTML or Hypertext Markup Language** is a system for tagging various parts of a Web document that tells the browsing software how to display the document's text, links, graphics, and media. It provides the capability to create hypertext links between documents.

**HTTP or HyperText Transfer Protocol** is the *communication protocol* that allows Web clients to communicate to each other. It is a basic part of the address of any Web site.

**URL or Uniform Resource Locator** is the addressing system used on the Internet. The URL contains information about the method of access, the server to be addressed and the path of any files to be accessed. URLs are case sensitive and must be entered **exactly** as they appear complete with dots, dashes and slashes. In general, a URL has the following form: protocol://host/path/file. Protocol denotes the type of Internet resources, such as "gopher", "FTP" (file transfer protocol), "telnet", and "http". Internet URLs look like this:

<http://www.fedworld.gov/>

<gopher://cunyvm.cuny.edu>

<ftp://ftp.lib.ncsu.edu>

<telnet://martini.eecs.umich.edu:3000>

A **Home Page** is the document that is displayed when you first open Internet Explorer or any other Internet browser. Each site that you visit will have its own "Home Page"; it is similar to a *menu* of what is available at a site.

You can either **point-and-click** your way around the **Web** using the **Internet Explorer** tools, or if you know the address of a specific site, you can type in the **URL** and go directly to your desired destination. A few interesting sites, or destinations, that you might want to try are:

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

<http://www.nyc.gov>

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

<http://www.noah-health.org/>

# Tips on Navigating the WEB

## How to Search

Using the mouse to point-and-click, explore the Hostos Library's list of selected web resources. Put the mouse arrow on **Research Help** and then slide down to **Research Links**. There are many search engines available to use to find things on the Web, such as **Google, Yahoo, Ask.com, Live.com**. These search engines provide links to other information resources and sites. Each search engine, directory or meta-engine is different. Explore the variety of search tools to find the one you like the best. A few good tools include:

**Search Engines:** **Google** <http://www.google.com> **FastSearch** <http://www.alltheweb.com>

**Search Directories:** **Librarians Internet Index** <http://lii.org> **Infomine** <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>

### ◆ To jump (or link) to another site

- Click on anything that is **blue (or purple) and underlined** or click on **icons**.
- If you know the address or **URL**, simply type it in the Address Bar at the top of the screen. Remember that URLs are case sensitive.
- Each site has a **Home Page**, or menu.
- Some resources may have been **Bookmarked** for easy point and click access.

### ◆ Other interesting destinations to try include:

**Hostos CC Library** <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/library/>

**Handbook on Latin American Studies** <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/hlas/hlashome.html>

**THOMAS** <http://thomas.loc.gov> (for the full text of Congressional bills)

**World Fact Book** <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> (for country profiles)

**CUNY Write Site** <http://writsite.cuny.edu/> (writing help; prep for ACT & CPE)

**Internet Public Library** <http://www.ipl.org/>

**Census Bureau** <http://www.census.gov/> (US economic and social statistics)

### ◆ Navigating tips

- Revolving icon in upper right browser corner indicates link is being established.
- **Status** is shown at bottom of screen.
- Use **STOP** (the "X" on the Tool bar) if the link takes too long to load. It is probably busy so try later.
- Click on **BACK** to return to the previous screen.
- Click on **HOME** to return to the first screen of a resource.
- Click on **VIEW**, then **GO TO** to see a list of sites you have visited and quickly return to one.
- Use the **ARROWS** on the right of the screen to scroll up & down.
- Click on **VIEW, EXPLORER BAR**, then **History** for a list of the URLs you have visited.
- Click on **FILE**, then **CLOSE** to leave Internet Explorer, OR, click on the **X** at top right corner of your browser to close it..

### ◆ Saving a text document to disk or Flash drive on a PC

- Click on **File** (top left of screen) and **Save As**; Change to drive **A**, insert diskette. If you are using a Flash drive ("Removable disk"), choose the drive, usually "E" or higher, to save to.
- If you are saving a Web page, change **File Name** and **File Type** to **Plain text (.txt)** or accept default file name and file type (.htm). This results in a document encoded with HTML.
- Click on **SAVE**.