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Writing Assignment #11 page 356

Honors English 120 – Critical Writing

11/10/11

**Yahoo! Search Results Compared to EBSCOhost Search Results**

Question # 1: Explain why the results for the Web search are different from those of the licensed database search.

The results of the Yahoo! Web search are different from those of the EBSCOhost licensed data search in various ways. However, before covering those differences, one must first understand exactly what each of these sources is. A licensed database is a restricted online catalog containing “thousands of periodicals,” while a Web database has “free access” to any public articles or links to related sites on the World Wide Web.

The major difference between the two search engines is the type of sources that will list as results. Web searches give articles from the Internet, and sometimes even graphic or video results, while a licensed data search will give various types of sources such as: “scholarly journals, public affairs magazines, newspapers or newsmagazines, and niche magazines” related to the specific search. Because of the wider options of credible, detailed and scholarly information that the licensed database offers, it may be more logical to use this type of search engine when trying to write a research paper for school. Alternatively, it may be more logical to use a Web search engine to, for example, read an article or watch a newscast on a current event for one’s own personal understanding.

Additionally, the method for which searches are completed differs between the two types. For a licensed database, any word or phrase typed into the search box will be included in the text of the sources that are given as results. If a phrase typed in the search box has quotations around it, then sources will be found based on text that has that exact phrase mentioned. However, without quotation marks, it will simply look for the words in the phrase within the sources but not always when they are mentioned together. Therefore, this type of search is very specific and may only offer a few options. Contrarily, a Web search engine will find results to a search based on all material on the World Wide Web. It will list results that have any of the words typed into the search box mentioned, whether it is in a title, website name, in the text of an article, or simply a reference made to the words in the search box. Overall, the Web search will offer a much broader list of results than when compared to that of the licensed database.

Furthermore, these two types of search engines differ in the ways that they are offered. Anyone who has access to the Internet can use a Web search engine to conduct research. However, licensed databases are much more restricted when it comes to accessibility. Licensed databases are usually linked to libraries, such as those in universities, and require a username and password to access the search engine. This is because the information from the licensed databases is viewed to be more professional because it is usually from actually published writings (which describes why they are not offered to the general public for free).

These differences, along with others, demonstrate why each search engine may be used for different reasons or by different people. Overall, both methods are acceptable ways to conduct research and should definitely be made known to anyone who is searching for information, no matter the reason.