

# 21:142 — Web Search Engines

## Fall 2003

### School of Library and Information Science

**Instructor:** David Eichmann  
**Class Schedule:** 1:05 – 2:20 MW, 3092 LIB  
**Office:** 3086 LIB  
**Office Hours:** 2:30 – 4:00 MW or by appointment  
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**Course URL:** [http://mingo.info-science.uiowa.edu/courses/web\\_search/](http://mingo.info-science.uiowa.edu/courses/web_search/)

### Objectives

The Web is evolving into the largest, most diverse information resource ever created. This puts incredible power at a user's fingertips, and an incredible amount of junk. Search engines, and the spiders, robots, etc. that back them, are rapidly becoming the only effective means of locating information relevant to a user's needs – but they also exhibit serious failings with respect to information currency, query effectiveness, and topic discrimination. This course provides information technologists with tools to analyze, assess and employ these resources.

### Course Format

The course involves lectures, class discussions, external reading and a lot of exploring the Web. You're expected to attend all classes and come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to discuss it. Exams will consist of a small number of essay questions.

### Grading

Final Exam (comprehensive)	25%
Exercises (4)	70%
Class Participation	5%

All assignments are due in class on the due date shown on the assignment. No late assignments will be accepted except in extraordinary situations.

### Texts

Various papers referenced from the course Web page (more about this in class).

## Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Date	Topic
1	8/25	Intro: History & Perspectives	8/27	Representation Issues [AltaVista] <b>Ex. #1 Assigned</b>
2	<b>9/1</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>	9/3	HTTP & HTML [Google] <b>Ex. #1 Due, Ex. #2 Assigned</b>
3	9/8	A Reference Architecture	9/10	Information Retrieval [AltaVista] <b>Ex. #2 Due, Ex. #3 Assigned</b>
4	9/15	Query Languages [Teoma]	9/17	Metadata & Repositories [CiteSeer] <b>Ex. #3 Due, Ex. #4 Assigned</b>
5	9/22	Search Agents; Conclusions [Sulla]	9/24	<b>Final Exam Released</b> <b>Ex. #4 Due</b>

### Accessibility Note

I need to hear from anyone who has a disability, which may require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact me during my office hours.