2.1 Effective Searching

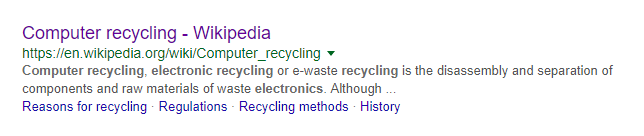
1. An environmental issue like climate change or garbage waste is a large one which you may not know a lot about. Choose one of the issues below:



2. Search the internet to find **ten related but narrower topics or subtopics** and key concepts on your selected environmental issue. Consider the following questions as you research your chosen topic.

1. Define the environmental issue you are covering.
2. What is the history behind the issue?
3. Who are the major “players” involved in the issue (government agencies, local townspeople, private or public organizations, etc)?
4. What are people doing to help prevent or change the issue?
5. How does this issue have an impact on humans and the environment now and in the future?

3. Try each of these 8 search strategies as you begin to accumulate information on your chosen topic. Copy and paste your results (just a brief extract) from each of these strategies into the worksheet. Consider what the resource will contribute to your final presentation.

1. Try an initial search and then write down synonyms or other related terms that you might use to create a subtopic. For example, I typed "computer recycling" into the metadata site Wikipedia and the result showed me 4 other links to entries in Wikipedia as potential subtopics. Can you spot them? I could also use the synonyms "electronic recycling" or "e-waste recycling" to narrow and refine my search.
2. Use a search engine like Yahoo or Google. The words you use will determine the information you find. So use different words in your search to give you additional information. When using a multiple keyword search, put the most important keywords first.
3. Search by Related Content found at the bottom of your initial search.
4. Use quotations around the words to locate sources with exactly that phrase. Otherwise, most search engines will look for each word separately.

Eg. "computer recycling" vs computer recycling

\*Use a plus sign + in front of a word to require its inclusion (no space between the sign and the word). A word or phrase preceded with a + sign must be present in the search results.

\*Use a minus sign – in front of a word to require its exclusion (no space between the sign and the word). A word or phrase preceded by a – sign will exclude that word in the search results.

1. Search by different types of content. Go to Google and under the search box choose to sort by video, or images, or news, or books.
2. Search for a list of resources or sites: “best sites for environmental issues” or “top recycling resources”.
3. Use a social media tool like Twitter search.
4. Search for a specific filetype by typing .pdf or .ppt or .png in the search.
5. Once you have found a site that looks applicable, search your topic just on that site. This is only possible if the site has a search function on it.