



# The Tangled Web



VS.



## Free

*AltaVista, Yahoo, Teoma, DirectHit, HotBot, InfoSeek, Northern Lights, etc.*

- Large unmanaged group of Web sites/links
- Searchable by every word in a document
- Minimal quality control; minimal human input
- Search Engines have no control on the amount of information retrieved
- Boolean Operators not consistently effective  
Default is generally for more information  
Advanced search features semi-usable
- Frequent changes without prior notification
- No quality control  
Not always current or up-to-date  
Can sometimes lead to dead or non-functioning sites/links

## Fee

*FirstSearch, LEXIS-NEXIS, ProQuest, JSTOR, ERIC, CINAHL, PsycARTICLES, etc.*

- Hierarchical organization
- Indexed by subject headings/categories
- Professional indexing  
consistent search terminology
- Focused  
Information peer reviewed  
Identifies scholarly publications
- Boolean Operators (and, or, not) are fully supported
- Authoritative published sources
- Quality control  
Dates covered documented  
Dependable sources



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