Search engines and web searches for ESL students

Jennifer Thurstun
(Macquarie University)
Outline

- Web searching as skill, art and attitude
- Search engines preferred by ESL teachers
- Online tutorials
- Common problems in web searching
- Tips for effective searching
- Reading search results
Search engines preferred by ESL teachers

- Google  http://www.google.com
- Yahoo  http://yahoo.com
Online tutorials

For teachers:

Common problems in web searching

- Being waylaid by advertisements
- Judging the quality of information
- Issues of vocabulary
Tips for effective searching

- Spend time wording the question
- Build a vision of the information
- Use simple Boolean search skills (see http://cn.net.au/webpage.htm)
Reading search results

- Lists
- Need for scanning skills
- Recognizing where sites come from
Australian and Sydney History
January 26, 1788. Australian - History of Sydney. Sydney Interactive Visitors Guide. History of Sydney Australia. Discoveries of Aboriginal Art Engravings. ...

The History of Sydney - Olympics 2000 City
The history of European settlement of Australia commenced in Sydney in 1788 when the First Fleet arrived, causing violent disruption to the Aboriginal world. ...

City of Sydney: Civic History of Sydney
... Civic History of Sydney ...
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/hs_civic_history.asp - 10k - Cached - Similar pages
Task: Australian desert animals

- Each group to use a different search engine
- Formulate the question
- Decide on search words
- Find different ways of searching
- Be aware of selection decisions
- Explain findings, what was most useful
- What advice would you give to students?