Title:
Benefits and Drawbacks of the Internet as a Research Source

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912

Summary:
Researching can be a time consuming task, whether it be for a news article, term paper, or sim

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research,internet,research internet,researching the internet,rearching on the internet

Article Body:
Despite the fact that turning to the Internet has become an obvious choice when doing research

On the positive side, the Internet offers the following:

- Access to new and valuable sources of information that came into being because of the Intern

- A more efficient route for accessing certain standard information sources such as newspapers

- Access to an enormous amount of information. Currently it is estimated that there are about

- Access to non-mainstream views. Fringe groups and those without access to the media or a pri

- Access to obscure and arcane information. Because there are so many people with such diverse

- Access to digitized versions of primary sources. Some libraries are digitizing (making elect

- Access to searchable databases and datasets. There are many sites on the Internet where you

- Access to government information. The U.S. federal government is one of the largest publishe

- Access to international information. Not only can you easily find official data from other c

Other key benefits that the Internet brings to the researcher include:

- Speed. Doing a search on the Internet can take just seconds.

- Timeliness. On the Internet you can find information that has just been made available a few

- Multimedia. The Internet delivers not just text, but graphics, audio, and video.

- Hyperlinking. The ability to click between Web pages can facilitate an associative type of r

On the downside, the Internet, despite its real and seemingly growing benefits to the research

- Diverse collection of information. The Internet is truly a potpourri of information-that's o

- Difficult to search effectively. A traditional electronic database that you might search in

- Emphasis on new information. The Web came into being in the early 1990s, and, consequently,

- Lack of context. Because search engines will return just a single page from a multipage docu

- Lack of permanence. Web pages are notoriously unstable. They appear, move, and disappear reg

- Selectivity of coverage. Despite the size of the Internet, the vast majority of the world's

Similarly, a good deal of what's on the Internet is "off-limits" to search engines and is not

In all, one can see that researching on the internet can be a blessing or an impediment for go