

# Technology and Foreign Language Learning and Teaching

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Nuraihan Mat Daud



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# TECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

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## CHAPTER 1

### **LANGUAGE TEACHERS' WEB SURFING SKILLS: TEACHERS' KNOWLEDGE OF METASEARCH ENGINES AND ADVANCED SEARCH FACILITIES**

NURAIHAN MAT DAUD

*The Internet has useful information for those in the teaching profession. Yet it is not known how much knowledge the teachers have about Internet surfing. This study is conducted to analyse language teachers' common practices when surfing the Internet. A survey was conducted to analyse teachers' knowledge of available search engines and their surfing skills. The study found that the majority of the teachers were not aware of the presence of metasearch engines. Many were also not aware of the advanced search facilities available. They went for any domain and all formats when surfing without knowing that they could select for specific files and specific language when looking for materials. This research points to a need for teaching effective Internet surfing skills in pre-service and in-service teacher training programmes.*

Keywords: internet surfing skills, metasearch engines (MSEs), advanced search facility

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Though the Internet is an important source of information, the issue of users' knowledge and skills in using the search engines is often neglected (Sahin, Cermik and Dogan, 2009). Internet users normally know how to log on, find an URL and type the URL in the address box. When searching for information many a times one gets thousands of hits but the first few pages do not have links that contain the information that one seeks. Many Internet users are not aware of the existence of advanced search facilities and the metasearch engines (MSEs) in solving their surfing problems (Moghaddam, 2006).

According to Teeler & Gray (2000), a search engine is a search tool that collects information from the Web by running an automatic programme which visits a huge number of web pages. A search engine (SE) serves as an effective and efficient Internet information search tool that is developed to help users look for information (Dreilinger and Howe, 1997). Basically a single SE creates its own database by crawling web pages.