

Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department Encourages You to...

# Diversify Your Search

*Introduce New Sources and Possibilities into Your Research*

Whether you want to search for websites or books, you usually know where to go: your favorite Internet search engine or the library catalog. Why would you ever consider any other routes? In a word: *possibilities*.

Let's look at it another way: when walking, if you always take the same route you are *less likely* to see new sights. You might know the way well, but other routes await exploration and can offer fresh discoveries and benefits.

Perhaps there are new ideas, persons, places, things, or unknown sources of information and insight you might find interesting or enlightening – or perhaps there are *better* or *shorter* paths to what you seek.

In that frame of mind, we encourage you to expand your search strategies to new sources and techniques:

## *Searching for Books...*

Many of us have favorite authors or authorities – people we trust for entertainment or insight into different topics. We each have our reasons for sticking with certain authors; yet, as we do so, we could be missing out on something substantial, be it new stories, new interests, or fresh perspectives on certain issues or events.

Introducing new authors or topics into your reading experiences can be enriching and exciting!

How do you break out of predictable reading patterns? How can you find new or similar authors? How can you expand your reading interests?

The library catalog is simply one of *many* tools available to readers and researchers at Thrall. There are, as it turns out, many other paths and tools worth considering!

Middletown Thrall Library offers a variety of services to help you discover new authors and reading interests. These are known as **reader's advisory services**.

By our Reference Department we have a **Reader's Advisory Center**, which offers numerous thematic reference guides for readers of all ages and interests as well as free bookmarks and flyers.

At our website ([www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)) we offer free services like **RAVES!** (where you can find or post reading suggestions), *Beyond the Bestsellers*, and a **Booklovers guide** ([thrall.org/booklovers](http://thrall.org/booklovers)) to new and interesting works of fiction and nonfiction, book lists, bestsellers, awarded books, and many other topics.

The next time you visit the library, we encourage you to inquire at our Reference Department to learn about the many different options available to you as a reader or a researcher.

## *Searching the Web...*

Not one search engine is the same as another: each search engine indexes a portion of the World Wide Web, and not one search engine can ever show you all that is online because the Internet changes and grows constantly. In fact, a great deal of information is still either *not* online or *not accessible* until you *pay for it*.

On top of that, each search engine ranks information uniquely and displays different search results. This is actually a very good thing! Why?

Relying solely on one search engine *limits* your search potential and can *prevent* you from finding *new* or *different* websites.

The solution is quite simple: **try different search engines regularly**. You will never know what you are missing until you do!

For some ideas on different search engines you might consider, please visit our **Ready Reference Center** ([www.thrall.org/readyref](http://www.thrall.org/readyref)) and click **Search Engines**.

Please remember to **diversify your search terms** as well: try **different words or phrases** and see if a search engine offers any **Advanced Search** options which could help improve search results you see.

Don't exclusively rely on *searching*, either! Check out our free flyer *Why Search?* to learn of alternatives such as our **Web Guides** ([www.thrall.org/guides](http://www.thrall.org/guides)) and **Databases** ([www.thrall.org/databases](http://www.thrall.org/databases)).

Specific information you need could exist in a form your favorite search engine cannot see. Knowing that, we encourage you to use all of our free services and resources to *diversify your research* strategies!

Also: please consider asking a librarian for assistance! Our librarians are eager to help you and can reveal research possibilities you never knew existed!