
Given the vast and transformative nature of the web, it is critical that a handbook such as Dr. Randolph Hock’s **The Extreme Searcher’s Internet Handbook: A Guide for the Serious Searcher** should exist to guide users through its abundant resources. Comprising over ten well-organized and easy-to-read chapters, the 4th edition of **The Extreme Searcher’s Internet Handbook** covers such topics as web searching, directories, portals, search engines, discussion groups, forums and newsgroups as well as resources for reference, images, audio, video, news and online shopping. Contrasting the current version of the Handbook with its predecessor, published in 2010, it is evident that the 4th edition is largely a reprint of the 3rd. Additions to the 4th edition include small sections on search engine accounts, specific search engines, desktop search programs and fact-checking websites.

While the publication of the 4th edition of the Handbook is well-timed, I do not believe that it adequately reflects advances in web searching that have surfaced since the 2010 publication of the 3rd edition. In the foreword of this edition, Gary Price outlines recent developments in web searching and online information retrieval, including the expansion of mobile access, the birth of the “cloud”, the increase of open data and the creation of digital initiatives; however, these topics are not covered by Hock. The Handbook would better reflect the current state of web searching if it addressed mobile web searching for cellular devices and tablets. The inclusion of such a chapter is necessary given the current popularity of mobile search tools. Such tools include mobile browsers, mobile applications such as WorldCat, Reverse Phone Number Lookup, and Voice Search, and metasearching applications such as Apple’s IQ Mobile Search. Mobile tools have also transcended generic text searching. Applications, such as Shazam and Google Goggles, have been developed to search and identify media and pictures simply by capturing the rhythm of a song or a picture of an object. Due to the continuously evolving nature of the web, this guide should also address current and potential developments in web searching in order to maintain currency and relevancy.

Overall, the Handbook includes highly relevant information and introduces readers to a variety of valuable web resources such as the CIA World Factbook, HowStuffWorks.com, Yahoo! Finance, Reuters, ConsumerReports.org, Google, PBworks, Facebook, Twitter, WordPress, Flickr and YouTube. Though the Handbook addresses a variety of outstanding topical resources, it only skims the surface of many others the web has to offer. For example, the section on patents in Chapter 4 mentions only the Google Patents database which is limited to
patents from the United States and Europe. There is no mention of Scirus even though it includes a broader geographic range of patents, including patents from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the European Patent Office, the Japanese Patent Office, the Patent Cooperation Treaty of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the UK Intellectual Property Office. Scirus, like Google, is also very user-friendly and has a variety of advanced search functions. Other examples that could have been mentioned by Hock include HootSuite for managing multiple social media websites, and the popular w3schools website for web programming and coding. To fill in the gaps in subject-specific resources missing from Hock’s Handbook, librarians may want to consult Susanne Bell’s Librarian’s Guide to Online Searching (2012) which delves into bibliographic and numeric resources for the humanities, social sciences, sciences and medicine.

The Handbook is geared toward readers who possess a wide range of web searching skills and whose objective is to expand these skills. As such, it is an effective and practical guide to web searching. The primary audience for the Handbook is novice web searchers aiming to become experts in this field. While beginners can benefit from this guide, they may also struggle to follow the content due to the fact that the text assumes the audience possesses prior knowledge of web terminology and basic web searching skills. The Handbook does, however, contain a glossary to aid beginners. Advanced searchers will also benefit from the content of The Extreme Searcher’s Internet Handbook as the concepts and techniques mentioned by Hock are detailed and thorough.

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