

Internet Services (1)

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers. The use of the Internet has grown tremendously over the past few years and it has become an important part of our everyday life. From being a small network set up by the US Department of Defence to connect four computers at different sites, the Internet has come a long way. The reason for the ever growing use of the Internet is the various services that it offers.

Let us learn about the various services that make the Internet so popular:

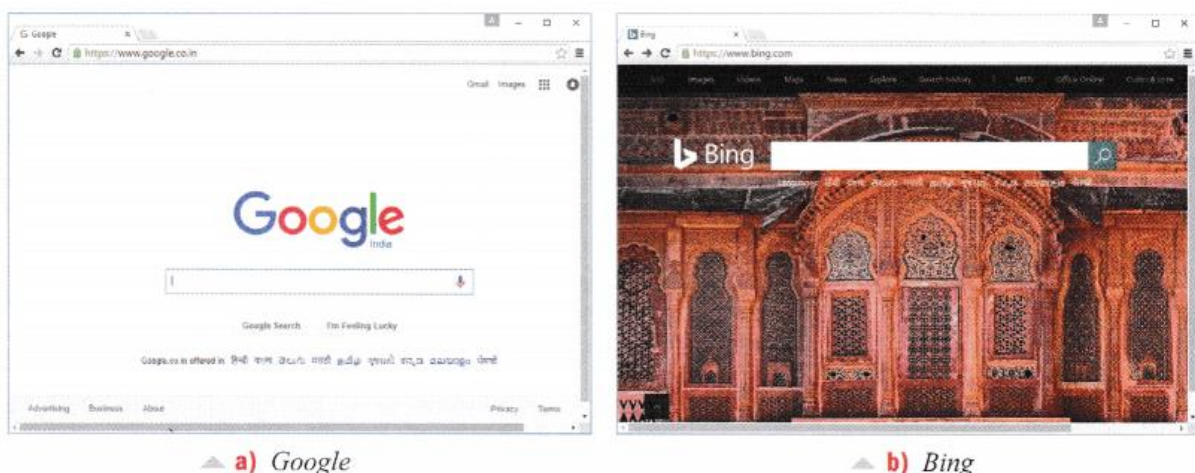
ACCESSING INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET:

One of the important advantages of the Internet is that it allows you to easily access information from anywhere and anytime. There is a huge amount of information available on the Internet on a wide range of topics such as research papers, news, books, products, technical support, job vacancies and health care. This information is stored in the form of text, pictures and videos on thousands of web servers. The search engines on the Internet help us to search and find information on any subject that you need.

Let us learn more about the search engines:

Search Engine

A search engine is a software that searches the webpages for information on a particular topic. The topic on which information is required is specified in the form of keywords. The search results are usually displayed as a list of links to the pages on which the keywords were found. Some of the popular search engines are Google, Yahoo! Search, Bing, AltaVista and Lycos (Fig. 8.1).

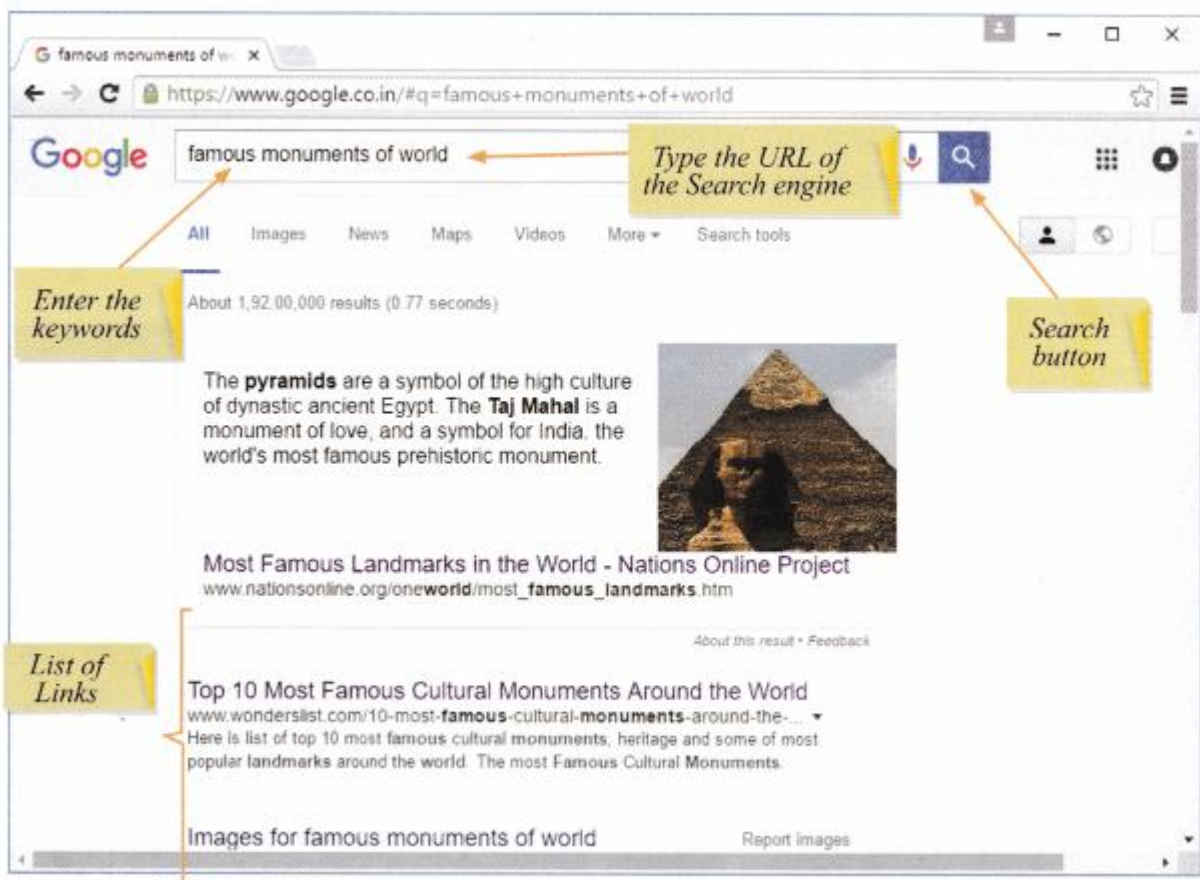


▲ Fig. 8.1 Examples of search engines

It is very easy to use a search engine. Follow the steps given here to access information using a search engine.

1. Type the address or the URL of a search engine in the address bar of the browser and press The home page of the search engine appears in the browser (Fig. 8.2).
2. Type the keywords related to the information you are looking for in the search box and press
3. A list of links to webpages containing the required information is displayed. You can click on these links to access the information on the desired topic.

A search engine makes use of a software called spider or web crawler to search for keywords and the addresses of webpages. This information is indexed with the help of an indexing software and stored. Creating indexes helps in retrieving the required information quickly. When you perform a search, the search engine makes use of a search algorithm to search for the keyword(s) in the indexed list(s).



▲ **Fig. 8.2** Steps to search for information on a search engine

There are some search engines and online phone or email directories that allow you to search for people over the Internet.

Some of these websites are www.search.bigfoot.com and www.whoare.com.

EMAIL

Email (electronic mail), is one of the most widely used methods for exchanging messages on the Internet. To be able to use an email service, you need to have an email account. Every email account is identified by an email address. An email address consists of a username and a domain name of the server that provides the email facility. The username and the domain name are separated by the symbol @.

For example, in the email address colskumar@gmail.com, the username is colskumar and the domain name of the server is gmail.com.

Email can be used to send textual messages as well as greeting cards. There are many sites such as www.egreetings.com that let you send greeting cards through email.

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