

Introduction to the Internet

What is the Internet?

A global network connecting millions of computers. More than 100 countries are linked into exchanges of data, news and opinions.

What is the Web?

The web is just part of the Internet. Simply put, the web consists of a collection of pages of information stored on computers that are accessible via a "web server" or "host." The information pages are retrieved by the server and then are displayed using software called a "browser."

The information pages are written in a language called HTML and consists of text, graphics, music, video, etc. (There are also other programming languages for the web but HTML is the basic one). Websites consist of one or more of these information pages. The main page of a website is called the home page and is the starting point to that website. Home pages are generally the starting point to a website as they display information about the site's purpose, and the site's authors or owners. Users may click on "links" to view subsequent pages of information. Links are embedded in text, graphics, etc. (the mouse cursor turns into a "hand" when it is moved over a link). Websites are generally commercial or non-commercial. Some examples of non-commercial sites include not-for-profit and government.

View www.brightonlibrary.info

What is a URL?

A **URL** is **Uniform Resource Locator** – also called a web address

http:// -- Short for **Hypertext Transfer Protocol**, the Internet standard for transferring information on the World Wide Web. When entering a web address into a browser, it is not necessary to type the http://

www – World Wide Web

brightonlibrary– Refers to the name of the organization.

.info – is designated for information sites.

There are different types of endings to web addresses:

.com- commercial websites

.org- Refers to non-profits

.edu - refers to educational institutions.

National identity may also be revealed. For example: www.cbc.ca (Canada), www.guardian.co.uk (United Kingdom). There are more domains that have been established for certain types of sites to help in organization and identification. For example, [.museum](#) for museum sites, and so forth. These new designations are currently voluntary.

Many addresses contain additional information after the main name – this is indicated by a slash symbol (/) – for example: www.cnn.com/WEATHER/ Weather is the name of a page or subdirectory within the whole CNN site

Web Browser: What is it? A software program that enables you to access and navigate the internet by viewing Web pages on your computer. There are many types of browsers:



Internet Explorer



Firefox (Mozilla.com)

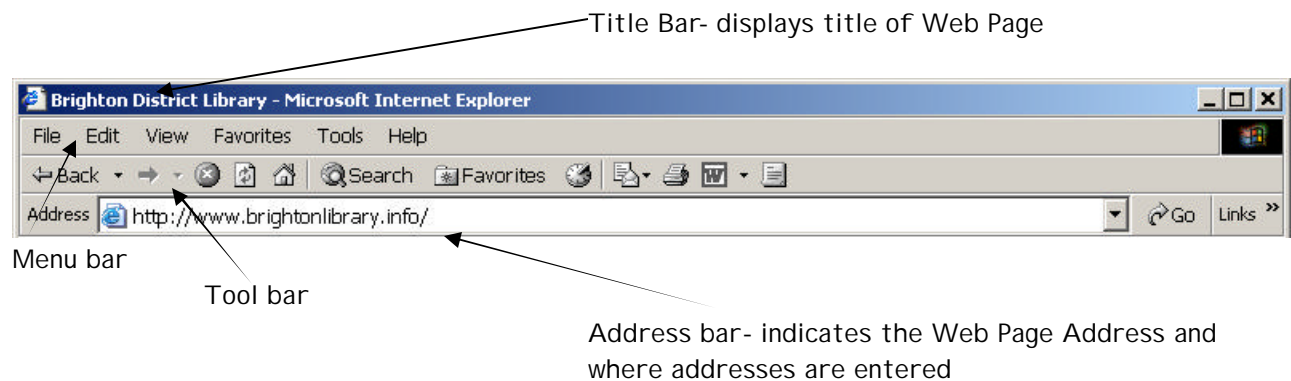


Netscape



Safari (for Mac)

Browser Basics- Internet Explorer







Title Bar



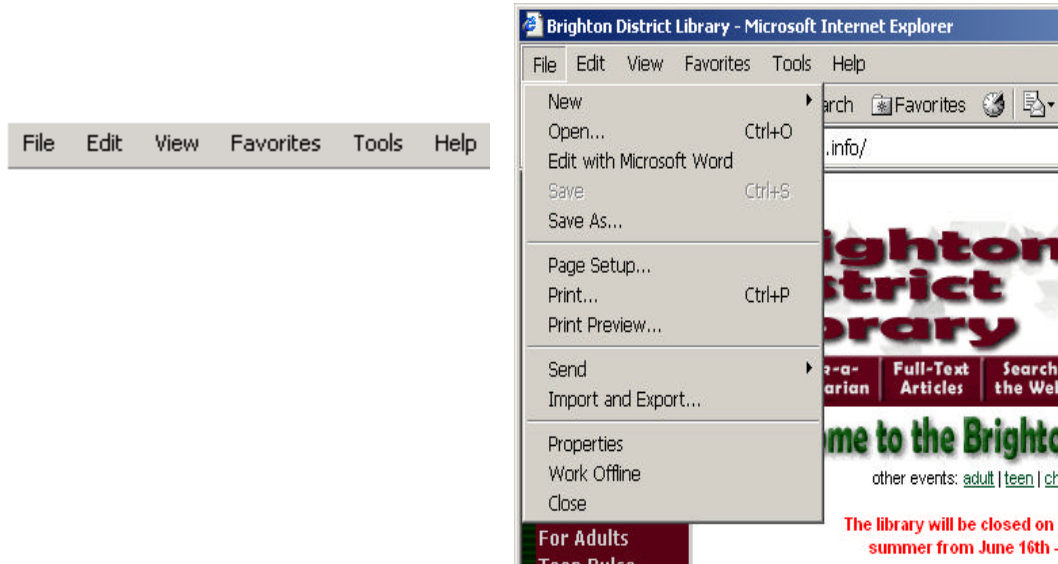
Displays the current web page title and three browser buttons.

"Minimize," "Maximize," "Close/Exit":

- ❑ Minimize button  reduces the browser window but the screen may be re-activated via the "taskbar." The taskbar is located along the bottom of your monitor screen (The "start" button of Windows is located in the taskbar).
- ❑ Maximize button  enlarges the browser window. When a window is "maximized" the maximize button changes to a "restore" button . You can click the "restore" button to revert the window back to its original position.
- ❑ Exit  closes the browser window

Menu Bar

Additional functions are "hidden" within such as "print," "save," etc.:













Navigation Toolbar

These functions allow you to move from page to page; search for new pages, print pages, etc:




Summary of Browser Functions from the Toolbar:


	Back	Returns you to the previously displayed page.
	Forward	Returns you to a page previously displayed. (Only available after using the "back" button.)
	Stop	Stops contact to a web page. Use this when it is taking longer than desired for a page to return.
	Refresh	Reconnects to the website and redisplay the screen. This can update a page that has changed or is not displaying correctly.

	Home	Returns to the start or main page. The Brighton District Library Home Page is set as the Home page.
	Search	Displays a search box for searching the web.
	Favorites	List of web pages to quick referral. Not available on library computers.
	Print	Prints the entire page on the screen to the local printer.
	History	Lists all the web pages viewed on that particular computer for a period of time.
	Full Screen	Displays a more expansive view of the page.

How is Information Retrieved?

By typing the address of an information page into the address bar of the browser (and then pressing “enter” on the keyboard or clicking the “go” button to the right of the address bar) one can retrieve that particular page. ***Ensure that the address is typed correctly as they are case-sensitive. An error message may appear if the address is incorrect.***

Note: If the “Internet Explorer” icon  is spinning (located in the top right corner), then the page is actively being retrieved.

One can also retrieve a page by clicking a “link” that is embedded within a web page (Look for the “hand” cursor  before you click). The information is then delivered to your computer from the host computer (or server) and is displayed using the browser. These links are also called “hyperlinks.”

Web surfers can also search databases of information that are built into a website. For example, on the Brighton District Library site (www.brightonlibrary.info) you can search the catalog for a book or other materials. The library also subscribes to a series of databases that are useful for its patrons.

A search of a "search" company's database (e.g. Yahoo! – www.yahoo.com, Google – www.google.com, etc.) will retrieve web pages from all over the world.

Exercise: Using a Search Engine -There are many search engines and web directories

- google.com
 - metacrawler.com
 - lii.org (Librarians Index to the Internet)
 - yahoo.com
 - dogpile.com
 - <http://brightonlibrary.info/search.html>
1. Click the address bar once (until the current address is "highlighted")
 2. Pick a search engine (any will do) and type the address into the address bar, then press "enter" on the keyboard
 3. type "taxes" in the search box and press enter.
 4. Look over your results
 5. pick another search engine and enter the same search- compare the results

Exercise: Finding the Weather

1. Type www.cnn.com and then press "enter" on the keyboard
2. Click the words "weather forecast" on the upper right side of the page (this is a "link")
3. Under "Find Weather" type your zip code in the box provided and click "go"
4. You can also click on the satellite and radar maps for different views

Exercise: Find Community Information and News

- livingstondaily.com (Daily Press & Argus)
- annarbornews.com
- Detroitnews.com (look for the Livingston Edition)
- reuters.com (Reuters wire service)

Exercise: Finding a Book @ the Library

1. Go to www.brightonlibrary.info and click "Library Catalog" at the top of the page.
2. Find the "Search for" box in the center of the page - type "Clancy, Tom" in the search box

3. Pull down the Library menu and select "this library" or Brighton District Library
4. Then click the "author" button to perform the search
5. The list is sorted with the most recently published works listed first. To get details about a particular title, click on details
6. Change from the "Item Information" tab to the "Catalog Record" tab and click on one of the subject terms to find similar titles

Printing from the Web- once you've found good information, you may want to print.

- First check what your printing
 - go to: File > Print preview
 - If it looks ok, press print. If there are too many pages, or it looks funny, press close and go back to the page.
 - Look around for a "print" button on the page, this will reformat the page to fit on a page better.
- Print options
 - Page range
 - Landscape/Portrait
 - Print selection

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- <http://www.gcflearnfree.org>
- <http://h30240.www3.hp.com/tutorial> (Hewlett Packard)
- <http://www.free-ed.net>
- <http://www.learnthat.com>