DATE: September 23, 2010
TO: Dr. Luke Reese
FROM: Vincent Davis
SUBJECT: Internet Research Assignment

In this assignment I plan on learning how to search the internet for specific things that I am looking for not only will I be using Google but I will have to search through government websites to find specific information that I will need to complete this assignment. My search is not limited to those resources but also various search engines such as yahoo and Google scholar. I know that this experience will help me in the future when I need to find something using the internet.

1. According to the U.S. census, there approximately 44,575 individuals in my age range category. The age range I was a part of between 2006-2008 was 15-19 years old. This is an estimate because this census is over three years. There were approximately 22,972 males and 21,586 females in my age category in Kent County between 2006-2008 according to the U.S. census.


2. According to the Kent County economic statistics of 2006-2008, there are no business establishments for environmental consulting services. I believe this establishment maybe included into another general category if it does exist. The largest employment business sector for my county is retail trade. I agree with this because of the economic statics provided as well as knowing the major market of farming and production in Kent County.


3. Arbitron is a television and radio rating service that publishes regular reports for selected markets. One radio station in my area, Grand Rapids, happens to be ranked number two amongst those in the area. This radio station is WSNX-FM and the genre of music they play is Pop/Contemporary Hits. This
radio station’s trends have steadily increased from the summer of 2009 until spring of 2010. I would agree with the statistics because there is not much competition in Grand Rapids in this genre of music. The future looks promising from these ratings unless another competitor is created.


4. According to the census of agriculture, Kent County has 1,193 farms and averaging 150 acres for the past three censuses. Concluding that this may mean that the surrounding cities be growing as the farms sacrificed acres to be farmed on.


5. | Internet source          | Results for nonpoint source pollution | Results for "nonpoint source pollution"
   |--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------
   | Google.com               | 1,090,000 (0.16 seconds)               | 1,110,000 (0.52 seconds)             |
   | Scholar.google.com      | 54,600. (0.07 sec)                     | 19,300. (0.13 sec)                   |
   | Search.yahoo.com        | 440,000                                | 604,000                              |
   | Exalead.com/search       | 127,031                                | 47,849                               |

My results increased with quotation marks put on the term I was searching in both google.com and yahoo.com. There was a noticeable decrease on scholar.google.com and exalead.com/search Internet sources or engines. Also, a few of the top results for the term I
searched were shared between google.com and search.yahoo.com. I believe this occurred because of the number of hits or visits those sites have received while being accessible on the Internet. The strings of specific characters I have searched have been repeated more often than following results as well. Lastly, I believe the quotation marks make the term more relevant and exact to the material being searched. These were my results for the Internet search.

6. I received 26 results using about.com as my subject directory. A few of the topics that nonpoint source pollution were under were watershed, storm water management, and why the US government cannot prevent Mercury Contamination of seafood.

Using directory.google.com:


Using dir.yahoo.com:


Using about.com:


A subject index relates topics to the term you search or string of characters. A search engine references to where the term or string of characters are usually stated or used in the results. Both function in similar fashions but topics are more associated to the search you make using a subject index unlike a search engine where the search must be used or clearly referenced to somehow. I might prefer a subject directory over a search engine because not only will results directly reflect my search but similar topics will become available too.

7. Pollution, types of pollution, and unidentified pollution are a few terms that could be used in a search to broaden my results.


8. Search engines search their own database for the phrases or string of characters that you are searching. Beyond that, search engines help people find information stored on other sites or pieces of requested information. As requests are made, the index is formulated and held to look through when new request are made for older information. That is how search engines work.

9. Websites get listed first depending on the traffic or visits to the web site. Also, the hits and people linked to your website helps with the ranking of your page. Lastly, there is a method of paying for your site to be put towards the front or top of results when a search is preformed.

10. An advanced search is a search option to become more specific and direct to your search. You can select specific words and cancel other words not associated with your search. The search is more enhanced as compared to a regular search; even dates can be selected for exactly what you are looking for and more! Just a quick example is portrayed below.

In conclusion, I learned several new things about using the Internet as a researching tool. I learned that the results for a string of characters may increase if you apply quotations to the string of characters. Also, I learned new facts about the agricultural trends as well as other interesting facts of Kent County and its residents as a result of searching for information on
radio ratings, economic statistics, and others. In using various search engines, I was capable of gaining a better understanding of how they work and function, as well as websites. Lastly, I discovered how to use advanced searches as a tool to look deeper into the resources the Internet has to provide.