Memorandum

To: Dr Reese  
From: Jennifer Smith  
Date: 12/12/2010  
Re: Internet Research Assignment

1) The number of individuals in my age range in my county is 60,591. The overall number of females are 609,496, the number of males is 584,660 in Oakland County. The year reported is 2000 and the numbers aren’t estimated. Source: www.census.gov.

2) The total business establishments for environmental consulting services are 32 in Oakland County. The biggest business sector in my county is Health Care and Social Assistance. I would think that would be correct since we do have bigger hospitals in Oakland Co. Source: www.census.gov

4) In 2007, there were 588 farms, with 32,504 acres of land used for farming. In 2002, there were 643 farms, with 40,930 acres, and in 1997 there was 544 farms with 45,366 acres. An interpretation I would make would be that Oakland County has been growing in population and this has been decreasing the land used for agriculture. Oakland County looks like it used to do pretty well in agriculture and have farms with many acres, but it looks like the amount farms in 2002 went up but the acres for farm land went down that year, might have to contribute to bad economy, farmers having to sell land to pay bills. Source: www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture/index.asp

5) The number of results would differ between the search engines because they all have a different database and way that they bring up information from their databases. They also assess what the bring up on the subject, topic, and words in the search. The difference of search’s when you put quotations around the topic did make the amount that came up smaller. They use a first word indicator to bring up sources on your search so with the quotations is phrase searching.
6) I went to www.about.com and I got 26 results on nonpoint source pollution. Some subjects it under are, watershed, eating meat, storm water management, and forestry basics. I could only access www.about.com, the others wouldn’t come up. I would prefer a subject directory over a search engine because the information is more directed at what you type in, when you use a search engine, you could get things that just have one word of what you’re looking for or things that just begin with the first letter. Source: Briney, A. (2008). Overview of Watersheds and Watershed Management. In Watersheds. Retrieved September 23, 2010, from The New York Times Company website: http://geography.about.com/od/physicalgeography/a/watersheds.htm

7) Nonpoint source pollution is a very restrictive term, from what you used to search for the information what else would you type into the search engines? I would use Pollution, Watershed, Basic Forestry and storm water management.

8) A search engine work by using a database that brings up results that have the same title or body of what you typed in, depending on how big that search engines database, and you can get a lot of results that will be no use to you. It also works on alga rhythms, which help determine reference.

9) The websites that get listed first are based on how many components match your search, URL’s, title, and the body of text. They also go on common searches, how many times the search has been done before and what people websites were chosen.

10) What is meant by advanced search is that it takes the components of what you’re searching and breaks them down different ways then a regular search, it just doesn’t use common searches, titles, or just the body, an advanced search uses all the words and comprehends them on legitimate domains, and file types as a whole instead of separately.

Summary:
What I learned was that there are many ways to search for the same thing on different search engines and you can come up empty handed if you dot know how these search engines work. You have to be specific in what you’re typing, know that the body of your text matters when you type it in, and using certain symbols can slow your search down. I also learned that if you want legitimate web sites and articles, you should use Google Scholar, and some of the more prominent educational search engines out there. I’ve also learned all the technical jargon too, what an IP Address is, Domains, Subject Directories, and Specialized databases.