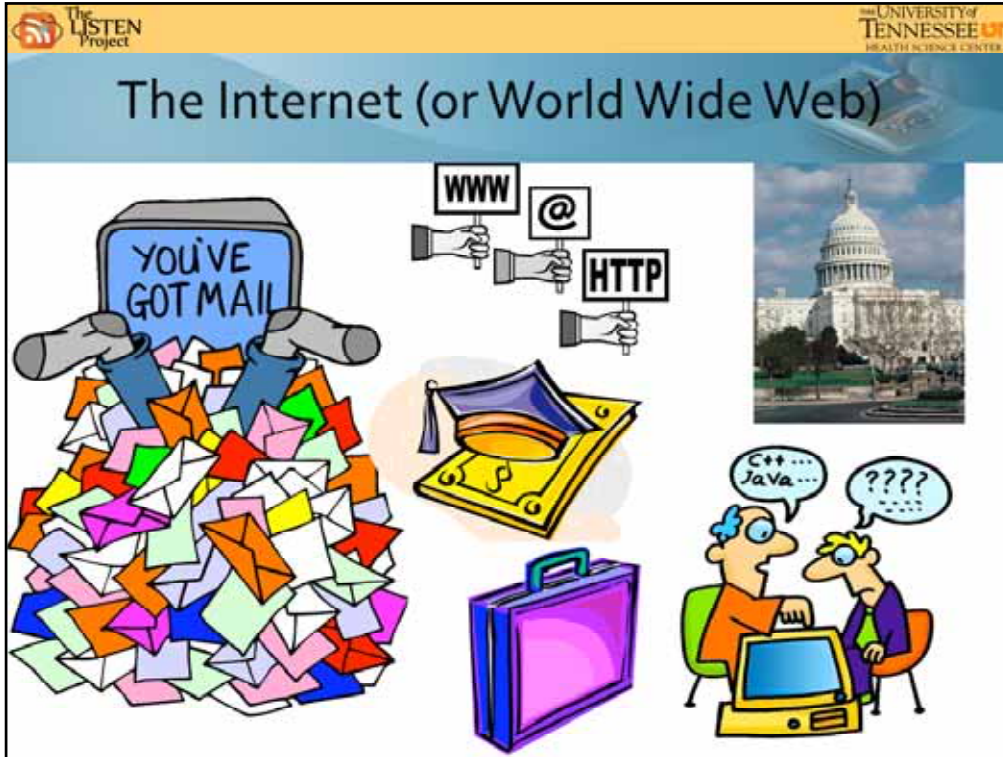


This is a Brief Online Learning Tutorial (or BOLT) brought to you by the LISTEN project, a HRSA-funded project focused on improving the information literacy competencies of nursing students and professional nurses.



This BOLT will help you understand how Internet sources are structured, to aid your search for quality information. What does the term internet source anatomy mean, and how can you navigate the Internet in the clinical setting? Remember that although there is a tremendous amount of information on the Internet, quantity of information does not necessarily lead to quality information. Much of the information on the Internet is unfiltered, indicating that the accuracy of the information should be evaluated. Evidenced-based nursing practice requires accurate Internet resources that are themselves evidence-based.



The Internet (or the World Wide Web) is a network of computers. The main purpose of this web is to make the distribution of documents anywhere in the world (anytime) as rapid as possible. Anyone can easily create an attractive web site and fill it with content, and no one has to certify it. Websites can be enhanced by java applets, email, RSS, wikis, blogs, and other features, making them appear exciting and perhaps suggesting credibility to uninformed users. When you add business, governmental, and educational organizations as users of the World Wide Web, you can see that informed health care professionals should be even more careful about how to search for and use the information that they find.



Understanding the structure (or - anatomy) of Internet sources begins with an examination of the URL. Every web page has its own address called a Uniform Resource Locator (or - URL). Much like the address on an envelope, each part of a URL provides information about the location of the web page. Here is a sample URL and descriptions of its components.

<http://library.uthsc.edu/faqs>

Now here's a breakdown of the above URL: the **http** is the protocol used, and short for hypertext transfer protocol, the **library** is the subdomain of the main domain uthsc.edu (for example, the library is a department within the main university), **uthsc.edu** is the domain name for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and **faqs** is the name of a folder or directory under the main website.

Sometimes you will see an 's' after http. This indicates that you have a secure connection to the page you are connected to. For example, when you are logged into your email account.

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Domain Name

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ .edu – educational institution ▪ .com – commercial entity ▪ .gov -- government ▪ .org – non-profit organization ▪ .net – Internet service provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ .aero -- aviation ▪ .biz -- business ▪ .coop -- cooperatives ▪ .museum -- museums ▪ .name -- individuals ▪ .pro -- professional
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The domain name tells you the type of organization sponsoring a page. The Domain Name System (or - DNS) helps users to find their way around the Internet. Every computer on the Internet has a unique address - like a telephone number - which is a unique string of numbers. It is called its "IP address." (IP stands for "Internet Protocol.") IP Addresses are hard to remember. The DNS makes using the Internet easier by allowing a familiar string of letters (the "domain name") to be used instead of the harder to remember IP address. So instead of typing 207.151.159.3, you can type www.internic.net . It is a mnemonic device that makes addresses easier to remember.

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Additional BOLTS

- Evaluating Internet Resources for Currency
- Evaluating the Authority of Internet Resources
- Primary vs. Secondary Sources



The Internet contains a wide range of resources from the least reliable and accurate to those of the highest quality. How effective you are at determining the quality of resources you find, will depend on how you analyze the sites you find. For more information on how to evaluate the accuracy and currency of information content, view the brief online learning tutorials (BOLTS) listed on the slide, or ask an expert such as your local healthcare librarian.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the LISTEN Project website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the LISTEN Project logo on the left and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center logo on the right. Below the navigation bar, a large blue banner contains the text: "For more information visit: <http://www.listenuphealth.org>".

The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a navigation menu with links for Home, About Our Project, Participate in the LISTEN Project, POLTs, News, Did You Know..., Social Bookmarking, Twitter, Calendar, and Blog. The middle column features the title "LISTEN: Learning Information Seeking and Technology for Evidence-based Nursing practice" followed by a paragraph explaining the project's goal to improve information literacy. Below this, it lists the groups that suffer from information literacy issues: Patients, employers, and nurses. A bulleted list describes the project's components: online learning modules, web-based resources, and interactive opportunities. The right column includes a photo of a smiling nurse and a "Tip of the Week" section titled "Searching PubMed Using Author's Name" with a link to a tutorial.

Continue to visit the LISTEN website, at listenuphealth.org, for other helpful tips on using technology; and, seeking, evaluating, and applying information in nursing to support evidence-based nursing practice.

Developed by **Richard Nollan, MLS, M.A.** **LISTEN Grant Health Science Librarian**

This project is supported by funds from the Division of Nursing (DN), Bureau of Health Professions (BHP), HRSA, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any official endorsement be inferred by, the DN, BHP, HRSA, DHHS, or the US Government.