

Netscape and Firefox have one important feature that Safari and Internet Explorer lack: they can report to you the date that a web page was created or last modified (select Page Info from the top View or Tools menu to access this function). Ignore the date information listed to the right of Modified—that date is almost always the date you are conducting the search. The date information you seek is usually reported in the box labeled Meta. By scrolling through the information in this box, you can usually discover both the date of original creation of the web page and the date it was last modified. A web page may be dated from the last revision date if no other date is shown on the page; Internet Explorer and Safari offer no way to know this date.

Why would you need to know the date of creation or last revision? As you will discover later in this chapter, the National Forensic League (NFL) evidence citation standard requires evidence to have a date listed. If the web page does not list a date of creation or last revision, the evidence would be unusable in debate unless it can be discovered in some other way. It is never acceptable in competitive debate to list a piece of evidence as “n.d.”—meaning “no date”—as some notation systems suggest for class projects and term papers.

Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari have one very useful feature that Netscape lacks: the user can “copy” an image from the Internet (to move over to a PowerPoint presentation, for example) by simply right-clicking the desired image and selecting Copy. It is easier to build a PowerPoint presentation using this feature. You can have PowerPoint running at the same time as Internet Explorer (or Firefox or Safari), copy an image using the method previously described, click the bottom Start menu bar to make PowerPoint the active window, and then simply issue the Paste command (either by pressing Ctrl+V or by selecting Paste from the top menu choice for Edit). You can accomplish the same thing from Netscape, but it is more cumbersome. You have to right-click the image and select the choice for Save This Image (there is no choice for Copy in Netscape). Save the image to a place on your hard drive or on a floppy; then from the top Insert menu, you can select Insert Picture (the choice for Insert Picture from File). The only problem is that this requires a couple of extra steps and you have to make sure you know where on your hard drive you saved the image.

URL or Universal Resource Locator refers to the Internet address for websites. An example would be www3.baylor.edu/~Richard_Edwards/.

Internet search engine refers to the software used to search for information on the Internet. You will use the same group of search engines regardless of which browser (Explorer, Firefox, Netscape, or Safari) you might be using. Examples of search engines are Google, AllTheWeb, HotBot, Teoma, InfoSeek, Yahoo!, Excite, LookSmart, and AltaVista.