

can create the code for you from simple-to-operate menu choices. If you want to view the HTML code used to construct a web page, you can do so by selecting the top menu choice for View (in either Netscape or Internet Explorer) and then selecting the choice for Page Source. You will see displayed the native HTML code that creates the web page.

MAXIMIZING THE USE OF THE SEARCH ENGINE

Why use a search engine? This is the only way to find material on the Internet unless you already know the URL you are looking for. The problem is that you must know the URL precisely; close will not be good enough. In the early days of the Internet, folks used to use printed resources such as *Internet Yellow Pages*. But now there are simply too many pages for these types of publications to be very useful. Google and AllTheWeb, for example, index more than two billion Internet pages.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SEARCH ENGINE

Comprehensiveness is the most important quality in a search engine. Powerful search engines index as much of the Internet as possible through two means. First, they invite web page creators to send a request to have their pages indexed. This is in the interest of web designers because they almost always want their pages to be easily found. Second, they employ automatic searching programs that continually find new (and unindexed) pages on the Web and index them.

The best search engines also do full text indexing. This means you could literally pick a phrase out of the middle of a web page and enter the phrase in Google or AltaVista in quotation marks, and the search engine will find the page for you within about a second. This capability is especially important for the debater. You might have written down a portion of a quotation used against you that you would dearly like to find (either because you want to check its context or you want to locate the quotation to use in your own briefs). If the quotation is from an Internet source, you can quickly find it using a comprehensive search engine. There are, however, some limitations to the capability to find text within a web page. Google, for example, indexes only the first 101 kilobytes of a web page (under normal circumstances, this is the first eight to ten pages of text).

Speed of operation is also important in choosing a search engine. In the early days of search engines, you could sometimes issue a search and wait a long time (ten or twenty seconds) for the search to be completed. Those days are gone. All the major search engines are really almost instantaneous now. If you are experiencing problems with