

8.

SEARCHING THE INTERNET.

8.1 WHAT KIND OF THINGS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

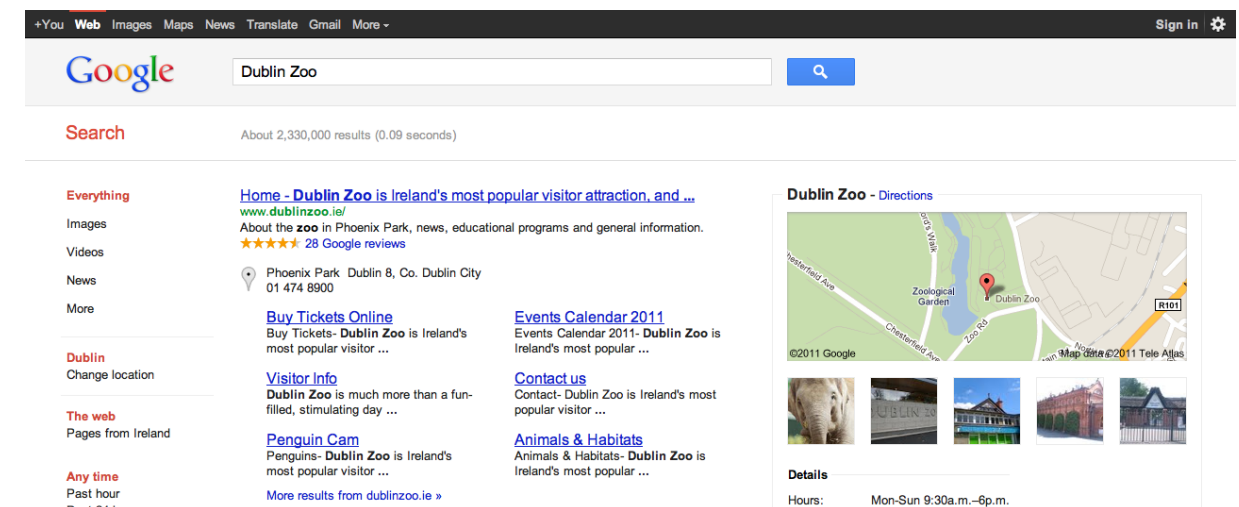
The internet now is a multimedia experience – that is, it is a mix of text, sounds, images and video. We'll search for a few examples:

- Fancy a trip to Dublin Zoo?
- Find relatives on the 1901 & 1911 census?
- Would you like to check your parish notices or watch or listen to church services?
- Do you want to know the weather forecast in your area for the next two days?
- Would you like to see how to poach an egg perfectly?
- How do you knit a purl stitch?
- What are you interested in finding out?

EXERCISE 1: VISIT DUBLIN ZOO

If you would like to visit the zoo, here's a way to do it online.

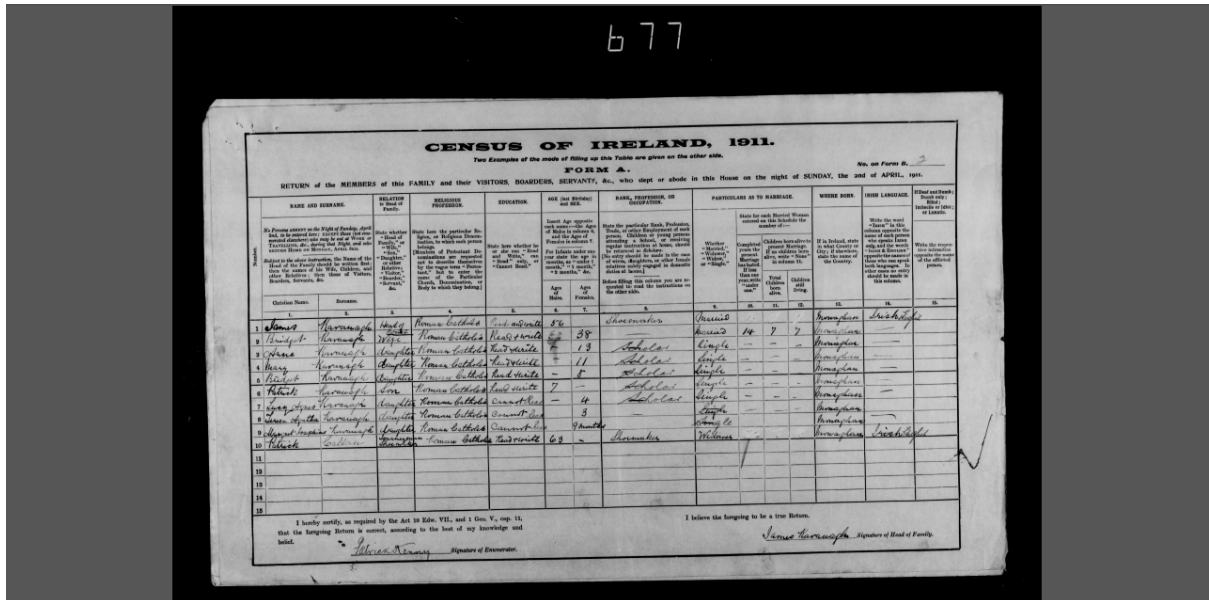
- Open the internet
- Type in www.google.ie
- In the search box type in Dublin Zoo
- Can you see where it says 'results 1-10 of about 2,330,000 for Dublin Zoo



- The first one is the Dublin Zoo website
- Find the link for Penguin Cam. Click on it to see what the penguins are doing.
- To go back to the Google search page, click the Back Button

EXERCISE 2: LOOK UP PATRICK KAVANAGH IN THE 1911 CENSUS

- Open the internet. Type in www.census.ie
- Click on 'In History' tab
- Find the link for Famous Returns from 1911, click on it.
- Find Patrick Kavanagh, click on the link. It should look something like this:

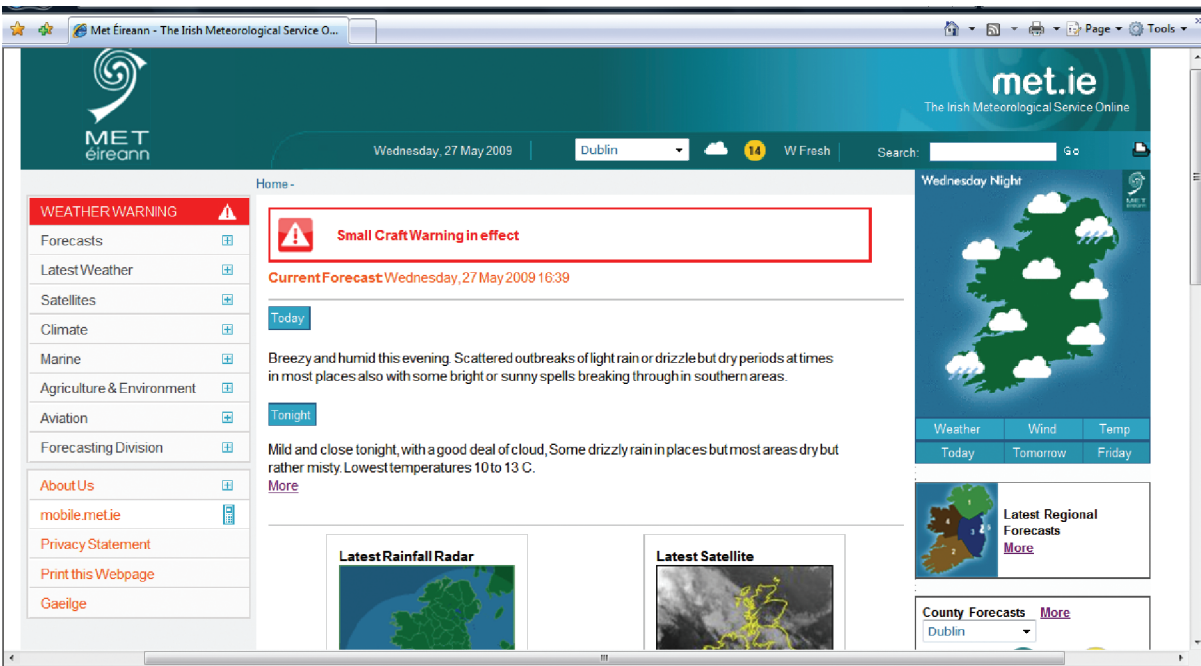


- Click on the back button to get back to the Home Page
- Why not try to find one of your own ancestors?

EXERCISE 3: CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST

There are lots of ways of looking for weather forecasts on the internet. Say we want to check the Irish forecast for the next 2 days.

- Open the internet
- Type in www.meteireann.ie or www.met.ie



- This website was viewed on a Wednesday night, so under the bigger map of Ireland you can check the forecast for today, tomorrow and Friday
- Type in www.met.ie into the internet address bar
- Check the forecast for the next two days
- Another useful feature on www.met.ie is the forecast for your county
- You can also check the weather on other websites. For example, www.independent.ie weather gives a five day forecast

EXERCISE 4: HOW TO POACH AN EGG PERFECTLY

There are about 140 million recipes on the internet, so how do you find something useful?
How about learning how to poach an egg perfectly?

- Open the internet
- You can either search in **www.google.com** or **www.youtube.com** by typing in 'perfect poached eggs' in the search box
- Can you find a video of someone poaching an egg?

EXERCISE 5: HOW TO KNIT A PURL STITCH

The internet is a great source of tips for hobbies and crafts. Find out what a 'purl stitch' is and how to knit it:

- Open the internet
 - You can either search in **www.google.com** or **www.youtube.com** and type in 'purl stitch'
- Did you find a video of someone knitting a 'purl stitch'?

EXERCISE 6: SEARCH FOR SOMETHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

Whatever you're interested in, have a go at searching for some information, some GAA results, music, some film footage, or people with the same interests.

EXERCISE 7: SEARCH FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION AND FLIGHTS

Once you've got used to searching the internet and moving around websites, you're ready to search travel websites – from Irish Rail to Ryanair.

- **www.aerlingus.com**
- **www.ebookers.com**
- **www.irishrail.ie**
- **www.dublinbus.ie**

8.2 USING GOVERNMENT SERVICES

One of the easiest ways to access Irish government services and departments online is through the **www.gov.ie** website.



Link to Motor Tax

Link to Government Departments

Here, you can find information on government services in 2 ways:

- Click on one of the services in the Services list, for example Motor Tax.
- When you click this you get the option to Pay your Motor Tax Online.
- Clicking this link brings you into the Motor Tax website which has an online facility to pay your car tax.

OR

- Click on Government Departments in the Sites section. All the government departments are listed here.
- If you want to find out information from a specific department, for example information on pensions from the Department of Social and Family Affairs, click on this department link.
- In the middle section, look for information on retired or older person.

- Click this link and you can find information on pensions, as well as other benefits and entitlements.

8.3 CITIZENS INFORMATION

The **Citizens Information** website **www.citizensinformation.ie** is one of the best sources of information on government and public services.

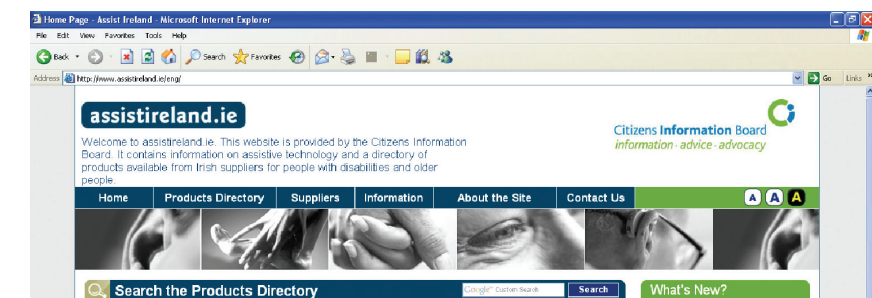


Link to
Health section

Link to Health section

If, for example, you are looking for information on health services for older people, click on the **Health** link and find the **Health Services for Older People** link. This links to further categories of information on health and care supports.

Another citizens information website that has useful information for people with specific health service needs is **Assist Ireland – www.assistireland.ie**. This website contains information on assistive technology and a directory of products available from Irish suppliers for people with disabilities and older people.



8.4 ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

Using the internet we can do a lot of our business from home. Here we provide just a few examples:

8.5 CHECK THE ELECTORAL REGISTER TO SEE IF YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.

- Type in the web address **www.checktheregister.ie**
- Scroll down the page and click on your local council site
- Type your details (surname/first name/house number/street) into each box and click on the submit button.

8.6 RESERVE A BOOK IN YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Irish libraries provide a wealth of information and services online. A list of all Irish public libraries is available on the **www.library.ie** website

To check a library catalogue or reserve a book:

- Find your local library and click the link
- Have a look at their catalogue (list of books) or enter a book or author name in the search box to see if is available
- You can reserve a book online or renew library books online also

8.7 BOOKING TICKETS

The internet is now an essential tool for booking flights and holidays. Have a look at:

Ryanair **www.ryanair.ie**

Are Lingus **www.aerlingus.ie**

Aer Arann **www.aerarann.com**

Public transport websites include:

Irish Rail **www.irishrail.ie**

BusEireann **www.buseireann.ie**

Theatre and concert tickets can be booked online:

Ticketmaster **www.ticketmaster.ie**

- You will need a credit card to pay for most online transactions.
- Some sites will accept a debit or laser card as well as a credit card
- Be sure to check for added charges and fees.
- Check also that the website offers secure payment facilities.