



## 1: Online Entertainment

The Internet is full of fun websites. They can be great for filling some free time. Many are even free of charge. There are sites for fun videos, funny pictures, music, TV shows and more. YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) is a great site for entertaining videos of varying lengths. Hulu (<http://www.hulu.com>) has a library of recent TV show episodes that are free. Pandora (<http://www.pandora.com>) is a great source of streaming music online. There are tons of games online for computers, smartphones, and tablets. One of the best sources of games are the smartphone and tablet application stores (Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store). Many of the best apps in those stores are free games!

## 2: Weather, News, and Blogs

*Weather* – There are a huge number of sources for weather information online. Some are more accurate than others. Some sources of weather are dedicated websites, others are parts of larger sites, and there are also smartphone apps.

Weather sites:

<http://www.google.com/search?=weather+60090>

<http://www.weather.com>

Weather applications

**MyRadar, Solar**

**Yahoo! Weather (also a site: <http://www.weather.yahoo.com>)**

*News and Blogs* – The Internet is a great source of instant, up-to-date news. There are tons of news sources online. These include both professional and amateur sites. Traditional news companies like the Daily Herald, the Chicago Tribune, and CNN are all online. But sometimes news is broken by amateurs or bloggers on Twitter, Reddit or other sites. Find sources of news you trust and stick with them!

Some examples: <http://www.cnn.com>, <http://www.twitter.com>,  
<http://www.reddit.com>, <http://www.dailyherald.com>

## 3: Wikis

A wiki is a web page that can be **viewed and modified** by anybody with a Web browser and access to the Internet. This means that any visitor to the wiki can

change its content if they desire. While the potential for mischief exists, wikis can be surprisingly robust, open-ended, collaborative group sites. The more editors on a wiki, the better the information created. Some examples include:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

[http://gardening.wikia.com/wiki/Gardening\\_Wiki](http://gardening.wikia.com/wiki/Gardening_Wiki)

#### 4: Search Engine Troubleshooting

Computers are not perfect. Everyone runs into issues with them. Even librarians! Thankfully, people don't like dealing with these problems and often share solutions online. Many websites have question and answer sections or forums where users communicate their situations and potential solutions. **It's important to read information online carefully to make sure that it refers to the device and software you are having trouble with.** Many problems only happen in very specific situations which might not be exactly what is happening to you

Finding information online to troubleshoot with is very easy. Go to any search engine such as Google (<http://www.google.com>), Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.com>), or Bing (<http://www.bing.com>). Searches like “[name of software program] [problem you're having]” or “[name of device] [problem you're having]” work very well. Don't be afraid to try a few of the different pages that the search engine pulls up. If you are not finding any relevant information, you may need to refine the problem part of your search.

Many of the places you will find troubleshooting information are informal blogs or forums. But hardware makers and software companies sometimes have official sites. A few of the big ones are Microsoft's (<http://support.microsoft.com>), Apple's (<http://www.apple.com/support>), and Google's (<http://support.google.com>) help sites.

**If you have questions don't hesitate to contact the library by calling: (847) 459-4100 or emailing [adult@indiantrailslibrary.org](mailto:adult@indiantrailslibrary.org)**

