

## Refining Search Results

60 minutes

ICT Specialism 4: The internet and digital literacy

Outcome M4.U2.1

Outcome M4.U2.2

### WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

In this lesson you will improve weak searches from your investigation log by trying synonyms, adding site filters, rephrasing queries and checking later pages. You will document three refinements of one search and identify the best result.

### CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

| Outcome        | What the specification asks for                                                                                  |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>M4.U2.1</b> | Search the internet to gather information on a specific topic of interest and accurately reference the material. |
| <b>M4.U2.2</b> | Compare information from various sources in order to evaluate its reliability, validity, accuracy and authority. |

### WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Improve weak searches with synonyms, site filters, and rephrasing
- Look beyond the first page of results
- Document three refinements of one weak search and identify the best

### BEFORE THE BELL

- Prepare printed search log templates for students without digital files.
- Write alternate trusted domains on the board before independent practice (citizensinformation.ie, fsai.ie, revenue.ie, cso.ie).
- Confirm students can open or create their search log spreadsheet
- Open a search engine and a blank search-log row on the classroom screen for the live demo
- Pre-list alternate Irish domains on the board before IP
- Students need a browser plus spreadsheet access for sm4\_search\_log.xlsx

## Refining Search Results

### HOW THE LESSON RUNS

|               |              |                      |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>5 min</b>  | introduction | Introduction         |
| <b>6 min</b>  | content      | Key concepts         |
| <b>15 min</b> | activity     | Step-by-step task    |
| <b>4 min</b>  | content      | Common issues        |
| <b>20 min</b> | activity     | Independent practice |
| <b>5 min</b>  | content      | Reflection           |
| <b>5 min</b>  | summary      | Lesson summary       |

### TEACHING MOVES

- Model the first refinement on the classroom screen, then type one full sample log row before students work alone.
- Facilitate a short whole-class point during common issues; keep alternate domains visible on the board.
- Circulate during independent practice to check three distinct strategies and a WINNER: line.
- Keep the reflection share-back brief to allow time for all steps.

### WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Empty results from site:gov.ie, direct students to citizensinformation.ie, fsai.ie, revenue.ie, or cso.ie.
- Similar looking refinements, encourage distinct approaches (word change, site: filter, full rephrase).
- Failing to mark why a result is best, require refinement notes to start with WINNER: plus one sentence linked to the investigation question.

### DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: Offer a worked example of the first refinement step and a printed column header strip.
- Extension: Challenge students to refine a second search from their log or add a fourth constrained row.
- Support: Allow paired discussion before independent recording of refinements.