



# San Diego County Library Introduction to the Internet

## Enter a Web Address Into an Internet Browser

- Using the mouse, move the cursor over top the current web site address in the address box near the top of the web browser.
- Keeping the cursor on top of the web address, click once. The current web site address should turn blue.



- Begin typing the web site address you want to visit. The highlighted address should disappear as you start typing.
- Press the Enter key when the new web site address is typed in completely.



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## Elements of a web site address

EXAMPLE: <http://www.sdcl.org>

- [http://](#) - Hyper Text Transfer Protocol – This is the common language computers use to speak to each other in the World Wide Web universe. It is not necessary to type this set of letters into the web address box.
- **www** – This segment tells the computer to search the servers that make up the World Wide Web for this site.
- **.sdcl** – This is the unique part of the web address. It will often contain letters or numbers people associate with information on the web site. The letters “sdcl” represent “San Diego County Library”.
- **.org** – This is the domain name (or extension). Org is short for “Organization”, and means the web site is likely sponsored by a not-for profit organization. Other extensions include:
  - .gov – for a government web site
  - .mil – for a military web site
  - .com – for a commercial web site
  - .edu – for a web site associated with an educational institution

## International Web Sites

For web sites stored on computers outside the United States, you will find a country code extension attached to the web address. For example, the Australian House of Parliament web site is [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au). For a list of country code extensions, visit <http://www.domainit.com/country-domains.htm>.

## Be cautious when typing in a web address

There are companies that use familiar web site names, but different domain extensions to trap unfamiliar users in their sites. For example, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) is the official web site of the home of the President of the United States. A different web site is [www.whitehouse.com](http://www.whitehouse.com), which is an adult content web site and not suitable for viewing in the public library.