Points that were explained and/or written in last class

1. Aside: (Difference between Rewritable & Recordable discs/drives i.e. CD-RW and CD-ROM and how they can be easily identified)
2. Brief about the language all web browsers understand i.e. HTML. It's basic format.
3. Examples of web browsers (know at least, three popular ones)
4. Things needed to get your website hosted (ISP, username, password, FTP site or address).
5. Search Engines
   - How they work
   - Examples
   - Adverts
   - Submitting URLs i.e. your website address

------------------------Just to compliment your class notes-------------------------

**HTML** – This can be compared to a computer programming language. It is more or less a series of ‘Tags’ that can be applied to regular text to make it more presentable.

EX: If I am writing a something that needs to be bold, I would use the Bold tag: `<b>`</b>. Anything that sits in the middle (`<b>`bold</b>) follows the instructions of that particular tag. The world bold would be **bold**.

There are many tags, too many to name here. They can be used to make text bigger, smaller, bolder, underlined, and italic. Then can make paragraphs, lists, tables. It can be used to show pictures, link documents with ‘Hyperlinks’, email addresses, etc.

General format:
```html
<html>
<title>
</title>
<body>
.....
</body>
</html>
```

The book has an exhaustive HTML section. If you want to learn how to make web pages, read it. You can also use a program (such as Microsoft Front Page, Macromedia Dream Weaver) to create web pages.
**Search Engine Basics**

Search engines; name your favorite 10 (increasing every day)

Google, Yahoo, Excite, AOL, MSN, Lycos, Dogpile, Ask, etc, etc, etc...

Why are there so many? Do we need that many? Should there be more?

Think about watching the news. There are approximately 10 channels in the area that have news of some form or another (some may do news all day long). Is this necessary?

Is seeing things from a different perspective good or bad? Would you want to only watch news coming from just one source? (Think communism)

When it comes down to it though, its just information – shouldn’t all information show up in the same manner? We did a lab on this subject, what did you notice about the results? They were, for the most part, the same. Although many of you noticed that ads differed from page to page.

Do we really need to see advertising on a search engine? We are after all just looking for information (be it commercial or not). Google needs to pay the bills some how...

Technology behind search engines:

There are basically 2 parts that you should be concerned with:

**Front End** (GUI, Web Site, etc.) – this is what the user sees. It is (usually) pleasing to the eye and easy to use. You basically tell it what you want (be it information from menus or simply typed in) and it will give it back to you, in a nice neat manner.

**Back End** (Databases, crawlers [spiders], algorithms, etc.) – This is the stuff you don’t see. In fact, no one really sees it except the people who designed / run the search engine. The parts:

**Database** – stores all the information that is gathered from the web. It is categorized in many different ways, and will respond to the user’s questions.

**Crawler(spiders)** – physically searches the web, taking ‘snapshots’ of the information on every webpage it comes across. There are millions of these that search the web, 24 / 7 (Although apparently they search less than ½ of all information). They will store what they find into the database.

**Algorithms** - Basically the way the information is searched for, the method. Each search engine has its own way of doing this, this is what makes for the different results you may get, even for the same question.
All of these items are nothing more than software, written for the sole purpose of serving the searching public. They run on lots and lots of expensive pieces of hardware. Thousands of servers are dedicated to the task of running the crawlers, powering the databases, and running the website so people can search.

**Libraries:**

Remember libraries? Big (or small) storehouses of information; in the past may have just contained printed works; they now contain everything from microfilm to DVD’s of information.

**Libraries Becoming Electronic:**

Because we now have the technology, why can’t we just electronically scan every printed work, and have it available in digital format? We are, little by little.

Is this a big job? Of course it is. Start slow though...begin with current works, they should be easy to get to electronic media (if they are already not in that form). Then scan the oldest (most fragile) things before they disappear for good.