**Subject Gateways / Portals**

Learners and researchers have a potentially vast range of resources available to them through the Internet and associated technologies .But, as the Internet increases in size and complexity, so do the associated usability and navigational issues. A range of strategies has been used to manage online information and provide different searching protocols, navigational aids and maps. Nonetheless, information overload persists. This information overload problem is well recognized and a number of structured resources and environments attempt to address it, such as search engines, information gateways and portals, digital libraries and virtual learning environments.

Subject gateways are portals to web pages in a particular subject area. They usually provide a search interface which allows us to find relevant web pages. An added advantage is that they usually link to web pages which are of reliable quality. Subject gateways are doing for Internet information resources what librarians are doing for books. They ensure and support systematic discovery of high quality information pertaining to a subject field. Using a subject gateway instead of a general search engine can result in the return of more genuine and relevant web pages. Resources included in gateways cover a wide spectrum, from electronic journals and books to academic and government reports, as well as referring users to relevant web sites.