## SKILLBUILDER

# Researching Topics on the Internet

### ▶▶ Defining the Skill

The Internet is a computer network that connects libraries, museums, universities, government agencies, businesses, news organizations, and private individuals all over the world. Each location on the Internet has a home page with its own address, or URL (universal resource locator). With a computer connected to the Internet, you can reach the home pages of many organizations and services. The international collection of home pages, known as the World Wide Web, is an excellent source of up-to-date information about the regions and countries of the world.

### ▶▶ Applying the Skill

The Web page is the European Reading Room at the Library of Congress Web site. Use the strategies listed below to help you understand how to research topics on the Internet.

### How to Research Topics on the Internet

**Strategy ❶** Once on the Internet, go directly to the Web page. For example, type http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/extlinks.html in the box at the top of the Web browser and press ENTER. The Web page will appear on your screen.

**Strategy ❷** Explore the European Reading Room links. Click any of the links to find more information about a subject. These links take you to other Web sites.

**Strategy ❸** Always confirm information you have found on the Internet. The Web sites of universities, government agencies, museums, and trustworthy news organizations are more reliable than others. You can often find information about a site's creator by looking for copyright information or reviewing their home page.

### ▶▶ Practicing the Skill

Turn to Chapter 4, Section 1, "Renaissance Connections." Read the section and make a list of topics you would like to research. Go to the Library of Congress European Reading Room at http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/extlinks.html. There you will find links that provide more information about topics in this section.