

## Search

A search and an investigation are significantly different. Searches are usually focused and loose—like the search for a missing child, about whom there are minimal clues. Investigations tend to be more formal, and to proceed by at least implicit rules of research. In between the two kinds of query, the often long term investigation and the search, lies research, a kind of organized study effort, to disengage the facts or reality about some area of history, human nature, or natural scientific development.

The search, in its most daily form, is more than familiar to all of us readers of the comics, or to late middle age couples who can't find their glasses or the email address for Aunt Sally. Glasses on the nose are the ultimate in the ravages of declining proprioceptive powers. Mom relies completely on her bifocals; when it comes time for small print or for deciphering a letter from Uncle Tim in Rwanda; she more or less panics and calls on her husband to join in the search.

In a very wide sense life is an endless search. We're born searching for the nipple, and in our ways—if we're guys—we spend a lifetime searching to recover that fleshy guarantor of peace. We're likely to search for many years for the path to recognition, only to find that the family dog is our best friend. We search for ways to tell our children what life was like, and how best to live it, and in the end what we have to offer is a sanctimonious group email.

,