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Searching

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Searching

For those whose student days
reside in mature memories,
it was like mining for gold:
sifting through mounds of material,
searching for a nugget,
hoping to unearth an information
mother lode.

Toiling on a term paper
meant rummaging about musty library
stacks,
juggling piles of handwritten note
cards,
extracting gems from obscure sources.
This mandatory, mind-stretching
exercise
demanded academic discipline,
developed intellectual “muscle”,
even garnered an occasional glittering
grade.

Physical mining remains strenuous.
Mining information is now stream-
lined;
simplified by powerful computer search
engines

programmed to capture, catalog,
retrieve, serve.

Need information about “Extinct New
Zealand Birds”,
“Medieval Celtic Music”, or “2nd
Century Roman Coins”?

A few keyboard strokes, mouse clicks
launch today’s inquirer
into information-clogged cyberspace
where thousands of sources materi-
alize
in hundredths of a second.

Google rules!
Accessible, addictive, instantaneous
information portal.

Warning!
Individual results may vary.
Repeated use
does not guarantee wisdom.

John J. Gordon



Intimate
Photography by Sarah Patterson