

DINOSAUR SEARCH

Dinosaur Search is a live internet project. It is in the process of showing every single dinosaur image on the internet.

It uses an application that creates a slideshow from the results of a standard internet image search. In this case, it is showing every result for the word “dinosaur.”

Every three seconds, it shows the next image in the search queue: image 1, image 2, image 3....

According to Google, there are about 8,300,000 images that come up for an image search for “dinosaur.” At 3 seconds per image, running day and night every day of this show (99 days), it will run through approximately one-third of those images.

But, you say, what about the other two-thirds? Well, luckily for you, this is an artwork you can easily create at home! On your iTouch, you can download the **WebShow** app (\$0.99) and run it yourself. Or, you can download the **CoolIris** program (free!) for your desktop web browser. With CoolIris, you can even speed up the slideshow and get through to the end much more quickly! (Please note that while there is a CoolIris app for the iTouch/iPhone, it doesn't have the slideshow function; the CoolIris slideshow only works on desktop computers.)

The point of this is to simply see what pictures come up in response to a dinosaur image search. What dinosaur images are the most popular? How many are illustrations for scientific sources, how many are illustrations for kids books, how many are advertisements? What non-dinosaur images mistakenly pop up because they happen to be somewhere near the word “dinosaur” elsewhere on their original site? What images may be using “dinosaur” as a metaphor (“Oh, he's such an old dinosaur about that!”)?

This whole body of work tries to investigate the place of dinosaurs in our culture, but only this project can supply the answer to that question directly.

