

Searching

Searching is the process of taking a key (what you are looking for), examining a data base (list of items) and returning a value that indicates where you can find the key in the data base.

A search function does not get input from the user. The input needed, data base and key are passed as parameters to the function.

A search function does not output any information. The function only returns a value indicating where the key can be found in the data base. If the key is not found then a special value is returned indicating so.

For example, if you are looking for integer values stored in a vector, then the vector and integer key would be passed to the search function, and an integer value indicating the index of where the key is in the vector is returned. If the key is not found, -1 is returned.