

UNDERTAKING RESEARCH & USING THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY ORIENTATION SESSION FOR POLITICAL ECONOMY STUDENTS

Session 2: Statistics, Government publications and the Internet

LOCATING STATISTICS

The library has a number of statistical databases. Some are available via the www, and can be located via the Library's databases page at: <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/databases/>. These Some databases are not web-compatible, and run on the Library's internal network. These can only be used in Fisher Library, and are available via the "Additional databases" icon found on the desktop on public library workstations

Databases

Statistics – Numerical Databases	AUSSTATS Australian Bureau of Statistics publications online from 1998+ as well as time series data for economic and labour subjects and some census data. The ABS catalogue is also part of the service.
	Census – 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 (<i>only in the Library</i>) The census data is available for these years on CD-Rom. For 1991, 1996 and 2001. There are two products: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLIB: tables for each topic and geographic area.• CDATA: the census data combined with mapping software.
	Perfect Analysis (<i>available only in Fisher Library, or remotely via downloading client software</i>) Share market data – equities data (daily close price for current ten years), market indices, company news and currency data.
	IFS – International Financial Statistics Wide range of financial and economic time series data from the International Monetary Fund. Coverage goes back several decades.
	Global Development Finance (World Bank) (<i>only in Fisher Library</i>) From the World Bank – covers international finance and debt. For 1999-2000 only
	SourceOECD Includes the full text of all OECD publications from 1998 onwards, as well as databases such as Main Economic Indicators and Social Expenditure Data.
	World Development Indicators (<i>available only in Fisher Library</i>) This database has time series data from the World Bank. There are 500 series from the subject areas of people (population, health, education and labour); environment (land, energy, CO2...); economy (largest series – national accounts, government finance, purchasing power, money, trade); states (infrastructure, investment, defence...); aid (aid, tourism, migration). Coverage is 1960-.

Other sources for locating statistics

Consider using the annual reports of the Commonwealth and State Government departments and statutory authorities. See <http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/official.html> for links to these official sites.

Also check to see if there is a professional or industry body or charitable institution or NGO, as these too can be a good source for statistics. (Hint: do a keyword search in the catalogue for *associations institutions and directories*).

Another way to trace where statistics have been published is by using source books. Below are listed some examples:

Statistics sources

Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co.

Editor: Paul Wasserman

23rd ed. (2000)

Fisher Reference 016.31 15

Global data locator

George Thomas Kurian

Lanham, MD.: Bernan Press, c1997

Fisher Reference 310 29

Instat: international statistics sources: subject guide to sources of international comparative statistics

[Edited by] Michael C. Fleming and Joseph G. Nellis

London; New York: Routledge, 1995

Fisher Reference 016.31 16

Encyclopedia of business information sources: a bibliographic guide to more than 26,000 citations covering over 1,100 subjects of interest to business personnel

James Woy, editor

Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, c1999

Fisher Reference 016.33 11 D

Government publications

Government publications are an invaluable source of information in the fields of economics and politics. The library has prepared a range of guides to Australian government publications and the publications of some other countries (eg Great Britain and the United States of America) and international organizations (such as the European Community) held in our collections. These guides are available via the Government Internet Guide (<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/guides.html>) on the Library home page.

When searching for Australian or overseas government publications in the online catalogue, remember there are several things to keep in mind. If searching by author you need to type in the country or state before the name of the department or agency. Also shorten *department* to *dept*. For example:

Searching for publications by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Use *Australia Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

The other common problem is that major reports or studies tend to become known by a vernacular title – usually after the chairperson of the committee. This doesn't reflect the proper title of the report. In these cases where you only know the common name use the keyword search and type in what you know. For example:

Looking for the Wallis report – Do a keyword search using wallis and report

Finds the Financial System Inquiry final report

The government publications collection is located on the 9th floor of Fisher Library. It is arranged alphabetically by country and state and then within these by type of publication. The Library will also often receive or purchase additional copies of important reports or journal publications and these will be in the regular collections – check the online catalogue.

Library subject guides

There are subject guides available via the Library's home page. These guides are put together by the relevant subject librarians and they point to relevant materials in the Library's reference collection, to subject specific databases and to a range of good Internet sites and web pages for each subject. They are a good starting point to see what is available. Some you might want to look at are:

Political Economy Guide

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/economics/polecon.html>

Government Guide

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/government/>

Economic Statistics Guide

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/economics/statistics.html>

Sociology Guide

<http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/subjects/sociology/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fiona McCay

(Political Economy, Government and International Relations)

Phone: (02) 9351 3560

Email: f.mccay@library.usyd.edu.au

Alex Brown

(Business Information Systems, Business Law, Economics, Econometrics & Business Statistics, Transport Logistics & Supply Chain Management)

Phone: (02) 9351 3506

Email: a.brown@library.usyd.edu.au

Alice Chan

(Accounting, Finance, International Business, Marketing)

Phone: (02) 9351 5679

Email: a.chan@library.usyd.edu.au

Michael Arndell;
(Work and Organisational Studies)

Phone: (02) 9036 9426;

Email: m.arndell@library.usyd.edu.au;

Christine Tennent

(02) 9351 3257

c.tennent@library.usyd.edu.au