Econ 3F03
Methods Of Inquiry In Economics

Finding Scholarly Articles in Economics

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Mills Research Help
Need Help? Just Ask!

September 2008
Objectives

- Finding *references* to articles
- Getting the articles
- Downloading, emailing, printing, etc.
- Cited reference searching

**Questions?**
Any time during the session!
Before you start...

- Check Research Help Desk Hours [http://library.mcmaster.ca](http://library.mcmaster.ca)
- Under Using the Libraries > Hours
- Time your research so if you have questions, you can get help!
Article Databases – What are they?

- locate articles by subject, author, etc.
- “what exists” but not necessarily “what’s in the library”
- some have
  - full text of the articles
  - citations (references) only
  - abstracts (summaries) of articles
EconLit

• major database for Economics
• 904,309+ citations and abstracts of the world's economic literature
• 1969 to the present
• 750+ major economic journals
• books, dissertations, collected volumes (essays, proceedings, etc.), book reviews, working papers
Connecting to EconLit

- start at the Library home page
  [http://library.mcmaster.ca](http://library.mcmaster.ca):
  - Click on the Find Articles tab, Show More Options, and type “econlit” under “Know the name of the database you're looking for?”
- log in with your MAC ID
- from home or on-campus
Challenge!

Find articles about:
the well being of people receiving social assistance

(3 minutes)
Searching EconLit: Skills & Tips

or,
databases don’t work the same way as Google!
Avoid the most common mistake in searching:

well being of people receiving social assistance

- the search engine tries to find that exact phrase
  - you get 0 results
Tip: Identify Key Words and Phrases

- analyze your search statement to identify the key concepts:
  
  well being of people receiving social assistance

- isolate those concepts into individual parts:
  
  well being, social assistance
Phrases are fine, but...

- not too long, just one idea per phrase
  well being
  social assistance
Combining Terms: AND

- narrows your search by requiring both search terms

well being and social assistance
Combining Terms: OR

- broadens your search
- use for synonyms, alternate spellings, abbreviations, etc.
- always enclose words combined with ‘or’ in parentheses*:

(social assistance or social security)

*or use Advanced Search
Truncation, or Wild Card

- an asterisk * retrieves different word endings

`canad*` retrieves `canada`
    `canadian`
    `canadians`, etc.
Putting It All Together

well being and

(social security or social assistance)
Challenge!

- locate the place on the screen that lets you sort your results

- sort your results by relevance
Challenge!

- locate the place on the screen that lets you limit your results to:
  - Journals
  - Peer-Reviewed Journals
  - Books
  - Book Reviews, etc

- limit your results Peer-Reviewed Journals
The “One Good Article” Strategy

- to focus your search
- find 1 good article (e.g. #2: Social Security, Age of Retirement, and Economic Well-Being)
- use language from descriptors, authors to get more like it
Challenge!

- click on the article title of #2 to see the full description
- locate the place on the screen that lets you **combine the descriptors to generate a new search**
- search for all articles that have both of these descriptors:
  - *Social Security*
  - *Well Being*
- limit your results to journals only (using the tabs at the top of the results screen)
Do We Have Access to the Article?

- click 🔄 get it! ...to see whether the library has an online or paper subscription to the journal

- we may have:
  - one or more online subscriptions
  - one or more paper subscriptions
  - or both, or neither
What if there’s no “Get It!”?

● you can still find out if we have access to the journal by going to the library home page and using either:
  – the e-Journals tab, or
  – the library catalogue tab
Search for the **title of the journal**...

- **not** the title of the article!
- **not** the author(s) of the article!
Challenge!

- go to the library home page: [http://library.mcmaster.ca](http://library.mcmaster.ca)
- click the e-Journals tab or the library catalogue tab
- look to see if we have access to this article:


What did you type into the search window? What do you need to see to verify that we have access to the article?
Search Within Fields

- another way to focus your search
- use green ‘advanced search’ tab and drop-down menus to search only within the:
  - titles
  - authors
  - descriptors, etc.
4. **Social Security and Well-Being of the Unemployed in 42 Nations**
   Duwanwel, Bist
   It is generally believed that life is better in nations with a high level of social security. Yet earlier studies have found no difference in average health and happiness between nations that differ in social security effort. While these previous ... 
   View Record | get it!

5. **The Effects Of Social Security Reform On Saving, Investment, And The Level And Distribution Of Worker Well-Being**
   Bosworth, Barry; Burtless, Gary
   *Center for Retirement Research, Working Papers, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, 2002*
   All observers agree that Social Security reform is needed to restore the program's solvency. This paper examines the impact of alternative reforms on Social Security finances, on the wider U.S. economy, and on workers who contribute to and receive ... 
   View Record | get it!

6. **The Economic Well-Being of Social Security Beneficiaries, with an Emphasis on Divorced Beneficiaries**
   Weaver, David A
   *Social Security Bulletin, vol. 60, no. 4, 1997, pp. 3-17*
   There are numerous types of benefits paid under the Social Security programs of the United States, with each type of benefit having its own eligibility rules and benefit formula. It is likely that there is an association between the type of benefit a ... 
   View Record | get it!

7. **AGING, WELL-BEING, AND SOCIAL SECURITY IN RURAL NORTHERN**
Limiting

- to narrow your search
- available on the Advanced Search screen

- typical limits:
  - date, e.g. 1998-2008
  - publication type, e.g. journal article
  - language, e.g. English
Output

- saving or emailing your list of references
- printing all the info about the article from EconLit
- printing or photocopying an article
Photocopying in The Libraries

- Journals are for use in the library only
- **Photocopy machines**
  - self-service; all libraries; no cash
- **Library Debit cards**: dispensers or Bookstore, re-usable
  - $5.00 to purchase (includes $2.50 on card)
The Library Printer Network

- **printers in Mills, Thode, Innis, Health Sciences**
- send from any library computer
- uses library Debit card
- same card, same cost as photocopying (10¢ a page)
What if we don’t have it?

- **RACER**
- inter-library loans
- articles & books: free
- 7-10 day delivery (average)
- requires a one-time self-registration; more info on library home page, left navigation bar, under Popular Links > RACER (Interlibrary Loan)
Questions?

- Please log out of EconLit
- Ready for more?
  - No: finish
  - Yes: quick run through of Social Sciences Citation Index
Social Sciences Citation Index

● quick run through
● follow instructions on handouts
● problems? questions?
Review: Finding Articles

- search EconLit for articles
- use Get It!, e-Journals, or the library catalogue for availability
- download, email, or print references
- find articles on the shelf:
  - call number, volume, year, page, etc.
- cited reference searching in SSCI
- Mills home page > Research Guides
  - for copies of the handout & presentation
Questions?

Need Help? Just Ask!
Mills Research Help
Mills 2nd floor
905 525-9140 ext. 22533
library@mcmaster.ca

Chat with us
MSN: library@mcmaster.ca
AOL and Yahoo Messenger: maclibraries

Good Luck with your Assignments!