Econ 773
Economic Policy Analysis I

Researching in Economics Policy

Nora Gaskin
Liaison Librarian

Mills Research Help
Need Help? Just Ask!

September 2008
Objectives

- Intro to McMaster Libraries
- Finding articles & papers
- Finding books

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!
The 4 McMaster University Libraries

- **MILLS** -- Humanities and Social Sciences
- **INNIS** -- Business
- **THODE** -- Science and Engineering
- **HEALTH** Sciences
The Library Website

http://library.mcmaster.ca

• highlights:
  - tabs
    • catalogue, articles, e-journals, subject guides
      (especially economics)
  - popular links
    • on the left of the screen
  - subject and course guides
    • red drop-down menu, under Research
Objectives

- Intro to McMaster Libraries
- Finding articles & papers
- Finding books
Finding Scholarly Articles in Economics

- Finding references to articles
- Getting the articles
- Downloading, emailing, printing, etc.
- Cited reference searching
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
Major Databases for Economics

- EconLit
- Factiva
- Social Sciences Citation Index
- PAIS International

- Economist Intelligence Unit
- EIU ViewsWire
- Berkeley Electronic Press
Connecting to Databases

• start at the Library home page http://library.mcmaster.ca:
  – Click on the Find Articles tab, and choose “economics” in the “Find Articles by Subject” menu

• log in with your MAC ID

• from home or on-campus
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
Challenge!

Find articles about
publicly funded medical savings accounts

(3 minutes)
Searching EconLit: Skills & Tips

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

publicly funded medical savings accounts

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

• **analyze** your search statement:

  *publicly funded medical savings accounts*

• ...and break your topic into **parts**:

  *publicly funded, medical savings accounts*
Combining Terms: **AND**

- **narrows** your search by requiring both search terms

  *publicly funded and medical savings accounts*
Phrases are fine, but...

• not too long, just one idea per phrase

“medical savings accounts”

• in some databases, you have to use quotation marks to indicate a phrase
Combining Terms: OR

• **broadens** your search
• use for **synonyms, alternate spellings, abbreviations**, etc.
• always enclose the or’d words in **parentheses**:
  
  *(publicly or publically)*

*or use Advanced Search*
Truncation, or Wild Card

• an asterisk * retrieves different word endings

public* retrieves public
publicly
publically, etc.
Putting It All Together

public* and medical savings account*
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
• use language from the **descriptors** (or possibly, authors) to get more
Challenge!

- click on the article title of #1 (*Budgetary Implications of a Publicly Funded Medical Savings Account Plan*) ...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:
  - *Expenditure*
  - *Health Care*
Search Within Fields

• to **focus** your search
• use the green ‘advanced search’ tab and drop-down menus to search only within the:
  - **titles**
  - **authors**
  - **descriptors**, etc.
Using Advanced Search to Search within the Article Title Only
Results of Search for Words in Title Only

1. Medical Savings Accounts: A Core Feature of the Health Care System
   von Eiff, W; Massaro, T; Voo, Y O; Ziegenbein, F
   In 1984 Singapore adopted a system of Medisave accounts, individually owned accounts used to pay for many of the health care expenditures that in Germany would normally be covered by the obligatory or private health insurance. The fact that people ...
   View Record | get it!

2. Medical Savings Accounts: Microsimulation Results from a Model with Adverse Selection
   Zabinski, Daniel; et al
   This paper examines medical savings accounts combined with high-deductible catastrophic health plans (MSA/CHPs), exploring the possible consequences of making tax preferred MSA/CHPs available to the entire employment-related health insurance market. ...
   View Record | get it!

3. Budgetary Implications of a Publicly Funded Medical Savings Account Plan
   Schaufelmaier, Joseph; Land, William
   Canadian Public Policy, vol. 29, no. 2, June 2003, pp. 181-96
   There is no consensus on whether a publicly funded medical savings account (MSA) program can generate net savings for government. We discuss some practical differences that need to be addressed in the initiation of such an account.

Discovery Links
Images, Definitions, etc.
Limiting

• to **narrow** your search
• available on the **Advanced Search screen**
• typical limits:
  – **date**, e.g. 1997-2007
  – **publication type**, e.g. journal article
  – **language**, e.g. English
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
- 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?
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
Social Sciences Citation Index

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

- Search **EconLit** for articles
- use Get It! or **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
Objectives

- Intro to McMaster Libraries
- Finding articles & papers
- Finding books
Finding Books

the library catalogue

http://libcat.mcmaster.ca

• available from anywhere
• also lists: journal titles, videos, CDs and cassettes, music scores, maps, e-resources, etc.
The library catalogue...

- Shows what the 4 libraries own
  - Books
  - Journals
  - Maps
  - Music CDs, etc.

- Does not include individual listings for journal articles!
Searching the Library Catalogue

- You can search many different ways
  - title
  - author
  - subject
  - keywords
  - begins with...
  - and more!
Challenge!

Search the library catalogue for books on: economic policy

Tip: you can’t use the wild card* in the library catalogue!
Catalogue Searching Tips & Tricks

• Pick out the main concepts
• Use quotation marks for phrases
• Think of synonyms for your search terms
• For synonyms, use
  – Advanced Search
  – “any of the words”
Advanced Search with Synonyms

• note: catalogue search engine automatically searches for both *singularrays* & *plurals*
Other strategies

• find **one good book**
  - click on its **title** to see its **details**
  - click on its **subjects** to get more books with the same subjects
Other strategies

- check out the left nav; refine by:
  - date
  - location
  - format
  - subject
  - language, etc.
What does it all mean?

- title
- author(s) or editor(s)
- subjects
- place, publisher & year of publication
Now how do I find the book?

- Where is it shelved?
  - Which library?
  - Where in the library?
  - Use Book Location Guide to find the right floor

- Is it out? (click Check Availability)
  - Checked in
  - Checked out
  - For use in library only
  - In Storage, etc.
## Mills Library Book Locator

### Mills Bookstacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Numbers</th>
<th>6th floor</th>
<th>5th floor</th>
<th>4th floor</th>
<th>3rd floor</th>
<th>2nd floor</th>
<th>1st floor</th>
<th>Lower Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A, B - BT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BV - BX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C, D, E, F, G</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H - HN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ - HX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J, K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN - PQ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR - PS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q, R, S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, U, V</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100, 300, 400, 600</td>
<td>6th floor</td>
<td>5th floor</td>
<td>4th floor</td>
<td>3rd floor</td>
<td>2nd floor</td>
<td>1st floor</td>
<td>Lower Level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Mills Locations

- **Data Service**: 1st floor
- **Gov Pubs**: 2nd floor
- **Maps**: 1st floor
- **Music**: 3rd floor
- **Periodicals**: 2nd floor
- **Popular Reading**: 1st floor
- **Reference**: 2nd floor
- **Research Collections**: Lower Level
- **Reserve**: 1st floor
- **Russell Archives**: Lower Level
- **Russell Library**: Lower Level

---

*Request Storage items online at: [http://library.mcmaster.ca/forms](http://library.mcmaster.ca/forms)

---

*Rev. 08/07*

---

© 2007

McMaster University Library
Review

• the library catalogue: to find books & other items the library owns
• “phrase searching”
• use the left navigation bar to refine
• Location Guide: to find out which floor
RefWorks
http://refworks.scholarsportal.info

- a **Web-based bibliography and database manager**
- create your own personal database
- **import references** from databases
- **automatically format** bibliographies in seconds
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