

Electronic Indices to Periodical Literature

1. EconLit -- The primary index to economic periodical articles, EconLit is an indexed bibliography with selected abstracts of the economics literature produced by the American Economic Association. It covers over 400 major journals as well as articles in collected volumes, books, book reviews, dissertations, and some working papers. It is available through the UCF library index of databases. See example from class lecture.
2. Academic Search Premier – Similar but broader coverage (not just economics). Available through the UCF library index of databases.
3. Social Sciences Citation Index. Use to find articles that cite a previously published work. Available through the UCF library index of databases. See example from class lecture.
4. The UCF library electronic catalog via WebLuis. Most journals are available with full-text articles on line. Best once you know what journals you are looking for.
5. JSTOR (Journal Storage) -- Many of the articles you will need are available on-line through JSTOR. JSTOR holds many of the top economics journals as well as numerous others in political science, demography, history and statistics. Unfortunately, JSTOR excludes recent articles published in the past 3-5 years. Available through UCF library electronic index of databases.
6. NBER Working Papers Database -- The NBER's website indexes the working papers of affiliated faculty. This is an excellent source for empirical work in progress. Full copies of working papers are available free to subscribers and for a small fee to others from the website or through the mail. They are also available in many academic libraries. Searches are possible at <http://papers.nber.org>.
7. Social Science Research Network (SSRN) -- The SSRN Electronic Library has an Abstract Database containing abstracts on over 25,700 scholarly working papers and forthcoming papers and an Electronic Paper Collection currently containing over 11,600 downloadable full text documents. It includes working papers from the NBER as well as economics departments around the country. Searches can be made at <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/search.taf>.
8. RePEC (Research Papers in Economics) -- This website calls itself a “decentralized database of working papers, journal articles and software components.” Searches can be made at <http://www.repec.org>.
9. Individual Economics Departments Websites -- Many economics departments make faculty working papers available on their websites. They can be particularly good sources for theoretical work in progress or for empirical work done by researchers not affiliated with the NBER. Use this approach when you know the name and affiliation of a researcher who works in the area of interest. For links to economics departments around the world, see <http://ideas.uqam.ca/EDIRC/index.html>.

Some Economics Journals

Key Economics Journals - Research

American Economic Review
Econometrica
Economic Journal
Journal of Political Economy
Quarterly Journal of Economics
International Economic Review
American J. of Agricultural Economics

Sponsoring Organization

American Economic Association
 Econometric Society
 Royal Society
 University of Chicago
 Harvard
 University of Pennsylvania
 American Agricultural Economic Assoc.

Key Economics Journals-Reviews

Journal of Economic Literature,
Journal of Economic Perspectives

Sponsoring Organization

American Economic Association

Some Regional Economic Journals

Region	Journal	Sponsoring Organization
Western U. S.	<i>Economic Inquiry,</i> <i>Contemporary Economic Policy</i>	Western Economic Association
Eastern U. S.	<i>Atlantic Economic Journal</i>	Atlantic Economic Association
Southern U.S.	<i>Southern Economic Journal</i>	Southern Economic Association

Field Journals

There are many fields within economics, and most fields have at least one journal specializing in that topic. Here is a partial list of fields....

Comparative/Reform Economics

Today, many nations around the world are trying to shift from economic systems based on hierarchical principles of command and control to market systems based on the principles of free exchange and competition. Comparative economic systems attempt to explore, using pertinent theoretical models where possible, how “socialist” economic life has been organized in practice. Particular attention is paid to the development strategies pursued and the actual functioning of economic arrangements, as well as the balance between plans, bureaucracies, and informal sectors.

Development

Annual per capita income in the United States today exceeds \$24,000, while half the world’s population subsists on less than \$1,500 a year. Economists and others have long tried to understand the factors contributing to this enormous gap between rich and poor nations and have sought effective ways to accelerate growth in developing economies.

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

Few areas of economics have grown so rapidly in recent years as environmental economics. Environmental degradation and the scarcity of natural resources have promoted interest in related policy problems. Economists approach this field with their standard tools of examining tradeoffs. This is a key area of specialization at UCF.

Economic History

It is hard to gain a coherent picture of what the economy is without understanding how it evolved and what history teaches us about how different economies function. Economic history concerns qualitative and quantitative consequences of the industrial revolution for levels of wealth, the sectoral distribution of production, the distribution of income, the state of technology, the role of government, and the development of commerce. A historical perspective can help bring the issues of today into better focus, just as it can help explain events in the past and offer a trajectory toward the future.

Finance

Financial economics studies the behavior and structure of financial markets and institutions, including commercial banks, insurance companies, investment banks, mutual funds -- players in the stock and bond markets. Some research focuses on corporate finance and the capital structure of firms, the kinds of analyses that go on inside a corporate finance department of a Wall Street investment bank. Others look at portfolio management and the analysis of risk, arbitrage, and time discounting applied to the valuation of various financial assets. Financial economics has taken on an increasingly international perspective.

Game Theory

In the last twenty-five or so years, theorists have made great advances in characterizing the behavior of households, workers, and firms. Among the most active areas of current research are considerations of the roles of imperfect information, uncertainty, and strategic behavior in shaping the way that many economic interactions take place. Game theory is often used for such analyses. These lines of research have been helpful in explaining situations in which for example, involuntary unemployment is persistent or people cannot get loans despite being willing to pay the going interest rate.

Industrial Organization

Industrial organization seeks to apply economic theories of markets to actual industries and firms in the United States and other developed industrial economies. The inquiry starts by comparing the motives and organizations of actual enterprises to those that economic models assume the firm possesses. The industrial organization field is less business-oriented than policy- and theory-oriented -- although the analyses of industrial organization hold considerable relevance for those planning business careers.

International Economics

Both historically and today the field of international economics has been and is policy-oriented: As world trade and finance becomes more salient, international economics threatens to become coterminous with the study of economic policy in general. Today, even in such a large economy as the United States, it is very difficult to examine issues in public finance, macroeconomics, industrial organization, or labor economics without paying very close attention to the international context.

Labor Economics

Labor economics applies basic tools of microeconomics to the analysis of labor markets and the determination of employment and wages. What are the arguments for and against a minimum wage? What factors explain wage differentials? It is an intensely empirical sub-field, in which students are expected to analyze data -- often from very large computerized data sets -- as part of their study. Labor economics requires a good knowledge of price theory and a sound grasp of statistics.

Monetary and Fiscal Policy

The two principal ways that public policy affects the course of the economy in the United States are the government's monetary policy -- implemented in financial markets by the country's central bank, the Federal Reserve -- and fiscal policy, implemented through the taxing and spending decisions that Congress and the President make (or fail to make).

Public Finance

Topics stressed in this field include efficiency and equity arguments for government "interference" in market economies, what it means for the government to provide a level playing field on which private economic activity can take place, theories advanced to explain actual choices by representative governments, the effects of government tax and expenditure decisions on the allocation of resources, and the distribution of well-being. Special attention is given to the fiscal institutions of the United States.

Urban and Regional Economics

Space or location plays a central role in urban and regional economies both in creating value and in generating positive and negative externalities. Poverty, crime in inner-city neighborhoods, infrastructure, racial discrimination, friction between immigrant and other ethnic groups; and the gap between the desires for public services and the willingness to pay for them play an even more important role in the American drama today than they did in the late 1960's when studying urban problems was at a fore. Many urban and regional problems have their roots in market processes.

Some Statistical and Data Sources

A. Secondary Sources:

1. *The Economic Report of the President*. Published annually, The Economic Report of the President includes: (1) current and foreseeable trends in and annual goals for employment, production, real income, and Federal budget outlays; (2) employment objectives for significant groups of the labor force; and (3) a program for carrying out these objectives. Available on the web.

2. *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Published annually, the Statistical Abstract is a collection of statistics on social and economic conditions in the United States. Selected international data are also included. It is your best source of information on relevant primary data sources available from the Census Bureau, other Federal agencies, and private organizations. Available on the web.

3. World Tables. Published annually by the World Bank, the World Tables provide standardized data on GDP, population, government deficits, trade, social indicators, etc. for numerous individual countries (161 in the 1994 edition) and are thus a key reference for international comparisons. A Supplement containing revised data is published approximately six months after the main volume. Data are presented as annual times series covering multiple years (1972-1992, 1994 edition), as well as by topics and country.

B. Primary Sources:

1. Census. Conducted every ten years, the census serves as a vital statistical database. It collects information on an individual's place of birth, ethnicity, native language, family history, annual income, etc., and thus gives a picture of who is living in the United States.

2. Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES). Conducted since 1889, the CES obtains data on frequently purchased items, such as food or housekeeping supplies, as well as on major items of expense, such as property or vehicle purchases. This is a key source of consumption data.

3. Current Population Survey (CPS). A monthly survey of about 50,000 households, the CPS has been conducted since 1968. It is the primary source of information on the characteristics of the US labor force. In addition to providing estimates of employment, unemployment, earnings, and hours of work by occupation, industry, and class of worker, it also sheds light on a variety of demographic characteristics including age, sex, race, marital status, and educational attainment of the labor force. Supplemental questions provide information on a variety of topics, including school enrollment, income, previous work experience, health, employee benefits, and work schedules.

4. National Longitudinal Survey (NLS). The NLS currently provides 6 panels of information about the labor market experiences and other aspects of the interviewees. The surveys also include data about a wide range of events such as schooling and career transitions, marriage and fertility, training investments, child-care usage, and drug and alcohol use. The breadth of these surveys allows for analysis of a variety of topics such as the transition from school to work, job mobility, youth unemployment, educational attainment, and the returns to education, welfare reciprocity, the impact of training, and retirement decisions.

C. The Internet

1. Statistical Universe -- A bibliographic database that indexes and abstracts the statistical content of selected United States federal and state government publications, state as well as business and association publications. Available through the UCF library electronic index of databases.
2. Bill Goffe's Resources for Economists on the Internet, <http://rfe.org>, categorizes data by research topics, making it extremely useful for finding data that is relevant to a new research project.
3. Fedstats, <http://www.fedstats.gov/>, makes public data from over 70 different federal agencies. Data cover such diverse issues as natural resources and the environment, motor vehicle accidents, and wages and weekly earnings.
4. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov/>, reports on a diverse set of indicators including unemployment, the consumer price index as well as lesser known data on work stoppage, collective bargaining, occupational injury, and illness rates, etc.
5. Other federal agencies often have statistical divisions, e.g., the National Center for Health Statistics in HHS, and the National Center for Education Statistics in DoEd. Accessible on the web.
6. Bureau of Economic Analysis, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/>, an agency of the Department of Commerce, provides data on GDP, industrial output and investment as well as international trade.
7. FRED or the Federal Reserve Economic Database <http://www.stls.frb.org/fred/> provides historical US economic and financial data, including daily U.S. interest rates, monetary and business indicators, exchange rates, balance of payments.
8. Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>. ICPSR culls a wide variety of data on topics as diverse as education, aging, mental health, criminal justice, etc. It is an invaluable source of on-line data.
9. National Bureau of Economic Research http://www.nber.org/data_index.html provides a wide variety of both current and historical macro, industry-level, and individual data. Their listings include the CPS and extracts from the CES.