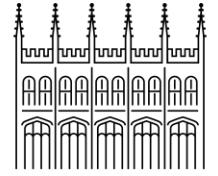


iSkills: Data Sources for Research

Hilary Term

January 2024



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LIBRARIES
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BODLEIAN
LIBRARIES



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Sources of data at Oxford



- We're considering data as a secondary resource
 - Already gathered
 - Available for re-use
 - Quantitative or qualitative
 - Not data you're collecting yourself
 - Some disciplines see this as novel others as routine
- Described as databases, datasets or archives

Understanding the language (1)



Database or dataset

- A collection of information; numerical, textual etc.
- Structured, e.g. Excel spreadsheets, Word etc.
- Indexed
- Derived from a particular research project, source or programme
- Often downloaded or accessed
- Updated over time
- Intended for academic or commercial use?

Databases - some examples



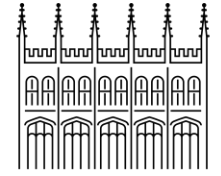
- Factiva: Business news sourced from Newspapers and business reports
 - Proquest Historical newspapers: 11 individual paper archives (1830 onwards) e.g. Times of India, Washington Post, Chinese newspapers, The Observer
 - Amadeus: Pan-European company information derived from annual reports
 - Digital National Security Online: Declassified US policy documents
 - Roper iPoll: US Opinion Polls
 - Proquest Dissertations and Theses
- ... and Bibliographic Databases generally

Understanding the language (2)



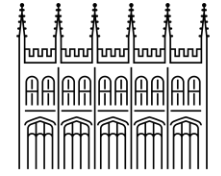
A data archive / repository

- Hosts a large collection of datasets or even databases
- Structured, indexed and documented
- Curated by an organisation; cared for and future-proofed
- Sometimes discipline based
- Sometimes based around a specific institution or organisation
- Content is ordered or downloaded
- Static and unchanging
- Non- commercial / academic use



Data archives - examples

- **Governmental or Non-Governmental**
- ORA and ORA-Data: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ask/getting-started/research-graduates>
- UK Data Service: <http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>
- UK Biobank: <https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/>
- ICPSR: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu>
- East Midland Oral History Archive: <https://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/catalogue.html>
- Research Data Repository Registry: <http://www.re3data.org/>



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UK Data Service

- International macro data from Eurostat, OECD, UN, World Bank, IMF, IEA.
- Survey and UK funded (e.g. ESRC) social science data
- Oral History and Qualitative data
- Advice on finding data deposits on the UK Data Service site <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/find-data/>

Can browse and read documentation before ordering data

Understanding the language (3)



- Open Data portals
 - Recent innovation
 - Usually concentrate on statistical data
 - Make data 'Open' publicly available via web
 - May seem to duplicate what's in archives and databases

- Question – do they differ?

Open Data portals - examples

Also called statistical data portals

- UNdata: <http://data.un.org/>
- World Bank data: <http://data.worldbank.org/>
- UK National Statistics: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>
- U.S. Census: <http://www.census.gov/>
- National Bureau of Statistics of China
<http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/>



Other data portals

Sometimes project specific...

- Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative:

<https://ophi.org.uk>

- The Oxford Roman Economy Database:

<http://www.romaneconomy.ox.ac.uk/>

- OII Research Program on AI & Work:

<https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/projects/research-programme-on-ai-work/#news>

- Our World in Data:

<https://ourworldindata.org>

Searching for data

- Moving beyond identifying locations
- Means conducting searches
- See what is disseminated
 - Targeted searches
 - General browsing

Browsing for data



- The sheer amount being made available creates problems of discovery
- Interested in seeing what's available?
 - Browse for them
- Increasingly datasets are cited
 - e.g. Iterate (political terrorism database), British Household Panel Survey, Bloomberg Professional
 - Literature search objective

Searching for data



- Search engines include data alongside books, journal articles etc.
 - SOLO, Databases A-Z
- Encouraged by publishers like Proquest
 - Creating bibliographic databases
- Often available via subscription
 - Asked for payment? Enter via SOLO etc with single sign-on

What tool to use?



- SOLO
 - Integrates with searches for traditional resources
- Databases A-Z
 - Tighter focus on e-resources
- Subject Guides (LibGuides)
 - Curated by your subject librarian
 - Data and statistics for Social Sciences <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssdata>
- Bodleian Data Service
 - Additional content on data management, analysis
<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/collections-and-resources/data-and-statistics>

Same resources but different 'shop windows'

Subject and Research Guides

Subjects A-Z

Libraries

Getting Started

Specialist materials

For researchers

Reference Management

Workshops

Disabled readers

Contacts

Subjects A-F

- [African Studies](#)
- [Ancient Near Eastern Studies](#)
- [Anthropology](#)
- [Archaeology](#)
- [Art and Architecture](#)
- [Biochemistry](#)
- [Bioinformatics](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Caribbean Studies](#)
- [Cartography](#)
- [Celtic](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Chinese Studies](#)
- [Classics and Ancient History](#)
- [Commonwealth Studies](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Continuing Education Subject Guides](#)
- [Criminology](#)
- [Development Studies](#)
- [Digital Humanities](#)
- [Dutch](#)
- [Earth Sciences](#)
- [ebooks](#)

Subjects G-O

- [Genetics](#)
- [Geography and the Environment](#)
- [German Language and Literature](#)
- [Greek](#)
- [Hebraica, Judaica, and Semitics](#)
- [History](#)
- [History of Science and Medicine](#)
- [Humanities](#)
- [Humanities \(Digital\)](#)
- [Human Sciences](#)
- [Internet Studies](#)
- [Italian Literature and Language](#)
- [Japanese Studies](#)
- [Korean Studies](#)
- [Latin American Studies](#)
- [Law](#)
- [Linguistics](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Materials](#)

Subjects P-Z

- [Patents](#)
- [Pathology](#)
- [Pharmacology](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Physiology](#)
- [Plant Sciences](#)
- [Plant Taxonomy](#)
- [Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Portuguese and Brazilian Language and Literature](#)
- [Printed Ephemera](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#)
- [Russian and Slavonic Language and Literature](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Slavonic, Central and Eastern European Studies](#)
- [Social Policy](#)
- [Social Science Data and Statistics](#)
- [Social Sciences](#)
- [Socio-Legal Studies](#)

Contact us

Subject Specific Enquiries

If you have a subject enquiry please contact your [subject librarian](#).

General Enquiries

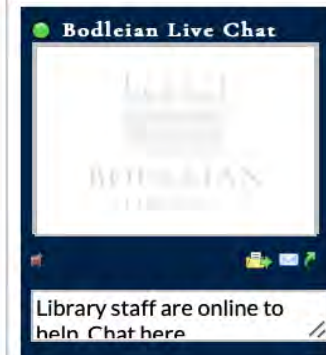
Email:

reader.services@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Telephone: 01865 277162

Post: Main Enquiry Desk,
Bodleian Library, Broad Street,
Oxford OX1 3BG

Chat to a librarian:



Bodleian Live Chat

Library staff are online to help. [Chat here](#)

Report a problem with LibGuides

[Bodleian Libraries](#) / [Oxford LibGuides](#)

/ [Research support, tools and tips for accessing materials and information about our special collections](#)

/ [Data and Statistics for Social Sciences](#) / [Home](#)

Data and Statistics for Social Sciences: Home

[Home](#)
[Macrodata](#) -

[Economics & Finance](#)
[Politics & IR](#)
[Society](#) -

[Media, IT and Communication](#)
[Public Opinion](#)
[Digital archives](#) -

[Data analysis tools & training](#) -

[Citation & sharing](#)
[Managing research data](#)

Purpose of this guide

This guide is intended primarily for researchers and students studying Social Sciences at the University of Oxford. It provides information on where to find general and subject-specific data and statistics, how to manage data, and what tools are available for data analysis. The guide introduces resources available only to the Bodleian card holders as well as freely available to everyone.

How to find

Macrodata

- [International Data](#)
- [Country level data](#)

Economics & Finance

Politics & IR

Society

- [Education](#)
- [Energy & Environment](#)
- [Health & Social care](#)
- [Science & Technology](#)

Media, IT & Communication

Public Opinion: Polls & Surveys

Digital archives

- [Data Archives &](#)

Social Science Data in the Bodleian

- [Bodleian Libraries](#)

Provide access to an extensive collection of databases via

- [Databases A-Z](#)

A browsable list of databases available at Oxford

- [Nuffield College Library](#)

The largest social science library outside of the Bodleian Libraries, and holds sociology collections relating to the interests of College members since 1937.



- [Bodleian Data Library](#)

BDL provides advice and guidance on both finding data and statistics to support your research and managing your own research data.

[more...](#)

Contact the [Bodleian Social Science Library](#) if you wish to ask a question or seek more help .

News

UK Data Service introductory training series: Autumn 2021

Subject and Data Librarian



John Southall

[Email Me](#)

Contact:

Bodleian Social Science Library
Manor Road, Oxford, OX1 3UQ
+44 (0)1865 2-85936



Subjects:

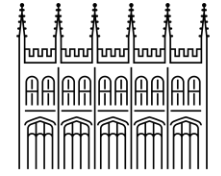
[Economics, Economics - General](#)

Any questions at this stage?

- Points of clarification?
- Comments?



Caveats & annoyances



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- Search engines collate available resources and present them in a unified way
- But how you access, view and use them can vary
 - Be clear what is being made available
 - Be clear in what format
 - Check for usage restrictions
 - Time delays

Some common examples

- Registration suggested or required
 - Subscription database environment
 - Common with external data archives
 - Providing authentication
- Restrictions
 - Subscription data limiting downloads
 - Confidentiality dealt with by making access harder
 - Archived data discoverable but not accessible

Some other caveats

- Restrictions on how you use it
 - For analysis only - cannot be quoted
 - Use only with suppliers tools (e.g TDM)
 - Cannot be shared
 - Supplied tabulations cannot be altered
- Make sure you are aware of these!
- May need to analyse data within their browser/interface
- Data often available from multiple sources but with differing documentation and support



eurostat

Your key to European statistics

Type a keyword, a code, a title.



European Commission > Eurostat > Home

News Data Publications About Eurostat Help

LATEST NEWS RELEASES

WORLD STATISTICS DAY
20.10.2015
BETTER DATA.
BETTER LIVES.

19/10/2015

European official statistics: Better data. Better lives.

On 20 October, World Statistics Day is being celebrated for the second time. This event highlights the importance of official statistics in our society. Official statistics help decision makers develop informed policies that impact millions of people. Improved data sources, sound statistical... [more](#)

[See complete list of news releases](#)

- Release calendar
- Government finance statistics

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC

General and regional statistics	Economy and finance	Population and social conditions
Industry, trade and services	Agriculture and fisheries	International trade
Transport	Environment and energy	Science and technology

STATISTICS EXPLAINED - ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EU STATISTICS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Household composition statistics - Updated	21/10/2015
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DATA

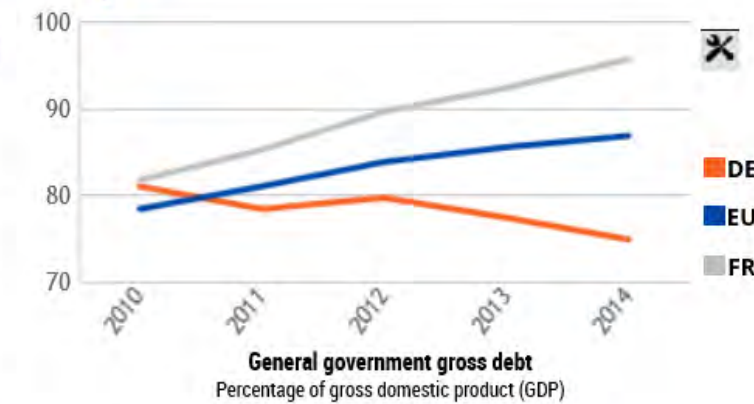
Most popular tables

Complete database

Apps & Tools

Key figures

Government gross debt	Government deficit & surplus	Government expenditure	GDP growth rate
2014, EU 86.8%	2014, EU -3%	2014, EU 48.2%	2014, EU 1.4%



Focus on

> Euro-indicators/PEELs



Microdata and restricted data



- Information collected at the individual i.e. micro-level
- Very sensitive and confidential
- May include direct personal identifiers
 - E.g. economic data, population data
- Only available pending strict application approval
 - From e.g. Eurostat, Statistics Canada, UKDS Secure lab, ICPSR
 - Open data portals will not supply it
- Support making applications via Bodleian Data Librarian



- DATABASE
 - Information
 - Browse statistics by theme
 - Statistics A - Z
 - Population Census 2011
 - Bulk download
- Web Services
 - SDMX Web Services
 - Json and Unicode Web Services
- Access to microdata
- GISCO:Geographical Information and maps
- Metadata
 - Euro-SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)
 - Classifications
 - Legislation and methodology
 - Concepts and definitions
 - Glossaries and thesauri

Data Navigation Tree

- Database by themes
 - General and regional statistics
 - Economy and finance
 - Population and social conditions
 - Industry, trade and services
 - Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
 - International trade
 - Transport
 - Environment and energy
 - Science and technology
- Tables by themes
 - General and regional statistics
 - Economy and finance
 - Population and social conditions
 - Industry, trade and services
 - Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
 - International trade
 - Transport
 - Environment and energy
 - Science and technology

Documenting data

- Keep a track/log of resources consulted
- Good research practice
- Data **AND** contextual documentation
- Make use of citation tools
- Key element of Reproducible Research, transparency and Open Science

Thank you



- Follow up this session...
- See Subject Guides:
<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/home/subjects>
- Data Research Support
john.southall@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
john.pilbeam@sbs.ox.ac.uk