

Benchmarking Databases Access in Academic Business Libraries.

Donald Schnedeker

Donald Schnedeker is the Library Director for the Johnson Graduate School of Management Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (E-mail: dws2@cornell.edu).

This column will report on access to business and economic databases and database aggregations¹ in thirty academic business libraries. Databases accessed in academic business libraries are presented in both alphabetic (Table 1) and ranked (Table 2) lists. Both tables include two years of data for comparison. This information is based on the data collected as part of the College and University Business Library (CUBL) statistics surveys² conducted in Fall 1998³ and Fall 1999.

Evaluating and selecting electronic resources has become an important and time-consuming aspect of business librarianship. This column will present a new tool to help librarians select electronic business resources. In addition to the report on database access in academic business libraries, Appendix 1 to this article will include the summary statistics for Collections, Expenditures, Staffing and Services, Facilities, Enrollment and Faculty from the 1998/99 CUBL survey.

Access to electronic business information is changing rapidly. Many articles have been written on the selection and evaluation of electronic resources for libraries.^{4,5,6} These articles emphasize the collection and evaluation of information on potential database acquisitions. While it is clear that librarians share information across institutions, this sharing is generally considered an

informal activity and has not been included in the selection criteria of the evaluation process for electronic resources.

The compiled responses of the libraries participating in this survey provide the librarian an opportunity to benchmark the electronic access to electronic business information offered at their institution. Reviewing the database selections of peer institutions should be one of the tools of the database selector.

The Survey

Thirty academic libraries responded to the 1998/99 CUBL survey. The list of libraries responding to this survey is provided in Appendix 2. The survey includes a section on electronic access to databases and database aggregations. For convenience, the CUBL survey combines databases and aggregations into a single list for the respondent.

In 1999, the respondents were presented with a list of 99 databases and database aggregations.

The respondents were asked to answer the following questions:

1. Does your library have access to this database?
2. Do you subscribe to the CD ROM version?
3. Do you access this database through the Web?
4. Do end-users have to pay a fee for access to this database?
5. Do you access this database through a database aggregator, like Dialog, OCLC, RLIN? If so, which aggregator do you use?

The respondents reported accessing 98 of the 99 electronic information resources listed in the survey. The list of databases and aggregations was based on information reported in the 1998/99 survey. The list is limited to those information resources that are available by subscription or

access fee. The list focused on business resources. Some of the major economics and social science databases were also included.

The survey form included space for the respondent to add additional databases and aggregations.

Twelve of the libraries responding added information resources to the original list. These additions included S&P NetAdvantage, Multex, DRI, TAQ (Trade and Quotation) and Business Source (Ebsco). Many of the additions to the list of databases will be added to the 2000 survey.

An alphabetical list of databases and aggregations is included in Table 1. Table 1 also includes the number of responding libraries that reported accessing that resource and comparison data from each database's listing in the 1998 survey.

Table 1

College & University Business Library Statistics, 1997/98

Database List, 1998/99		(30 Libraries reporting)	Database List, 1997/98		(31 Libraries reporting)
Databases	Libraries with Access		Databases	Libraries with Access	
ABI/Inform	30		ABI Inform	31	
Academic Index	10		Academic Index	14	
Accounting & Tax Index	6		Accounting and Tax	7	
Amer. Mfgs. Directory	2		Amer. Mfgs. Directory	4	
Article First	14		Articles First	2	
Bloomberg	23		Bloomberg	19	
BPI	4		BPI	7	
Bridge	14		Bridge	9	
Business & Industry	23		Business & Industry	20	
Business & Mgt. Practices (RDS)	4				
Business Index	2		Business Index	4	
Business Infosuite	0				
Business Periodicals Ondisc	7		Business Periodicals Ondisc	8	
Career Search	5		Career Search	3	
CCH Internet Tax Research	13		CCH Access	8	
Choices II	11		Choices II (Simmons)	4	
Citibase	5		Citibase	7	
Compact Disclosure	23		D/SEC CompactD	22	
Corp. Affiliations Directory	11		Corp. Affiliations Directory	8	
Corp. Profiles	2		Corporate Profiles (IAC)	5	
CorpTech directory	8		CorpTech directory	6	
CRSP	16		CRSP	14	
Data Star	3		Data Star	4	

Data Times	2	Data Times	4
DataStream	17	DataStream	17
Dialog Web	17	Dialog Information	15
Dow Jones Interactive	28	Dow Jones Interactive	16
Dow Jones News Retrieval	4	Dow Jones News Retrieval	19
Duns Business Locator	2	Duns Business Locator	1
Duns MM Directory	10	Duns MM Directory	5
EconLit	30	EconLit	28
Economic Literature DB	4	Economic Literature DB	4
EIU Business Intl Newsletters	5	EIU Bus. Intl. Newsletters	1
EIU Country Reports	10	EIU Country Reports	5
EIU Views Wire	7		
Extel	4	Extel	7
F&S Index (Gale)	4	F&S Index +Text	8
FARS	6	FARS	7
First Call	11	First Call	10
FIS Online (Moody's)	9	FIS Online (Moody's)	0
GA Pro (LaserD) (Primark)	7	LaserD	11
Gale business resources	5		
Gartner Web	7		
General Business File	9	General Business File	8
Global Access	25	Global Access	15
Global Market Information	2		
Hoovers	19	Hoovers	13
IBES	12	IBES	7
Infotrac	9	Infotrac (IAC)	7
International Financial statistics (IFS)	17	International Financial statistics (IFS)	9
Investext	17	Investext	23
ISI Emerging Markets	16	Internet Securities	7
Jstor	29		
Kalorama Academic	5		
Lexis Nexis Academic Universe	27	Lexis Nexis (Academic Universe)	28
Morningstar	12	Morningstar	11
National Newspaper index	7	National Newspaper index	9
NBER Working Papers	17		
New York Times	18	New York Times	12
Newspaper Abstracts	15	Newspaper Abstracts	12
Nexis	20		
Nikkei	2	Nikkei	3
NTDB (National Trade Data Bank)	23	NTDB (National Trade Data Bank)	21
OECD Index	1	OECD Index	3
OneSource	7	OneSource	7
PAIS International	27	PAIS International	21
Phone disc	3	Phone disc	4
Political Risk Yearbook	4		
Profiles in Business & Mgt	1	Profiles in Business & Mgt.	4
Prompt	10	IAC Market Insight (Prompt)	7

Proquest Direct	20	Proquest Direct	16
PsycInfo	26	PsycInfo	25
PW Researcher	9	PW Researcher	7
Reference USA	14	Amer. Business Directory	18
Research Bank Web	11		
Reuters	7	Reuters	6
RIA	5	RIA	7
S&P Corporate Text	2	S&P Corporate Text	3
S&P Global Vantage	9	S&P Global Vantage	5
S&P Research Insight NA	18	S&P Compustat PC Plus	15
SDC (Securities Data Co.)	10	SDC (Securities Data Co.)	6
Social Sciences Citation Index	29	Social Sciences Citation Index	20
Stat USA	27	Stat-USA	29
Statistical Masterfile	5	Statistical Masterfile	3
Statistical Universe	23	Statistical Universe	4
Survey of Buying Power	2	Survey of Buying Power	1
Tablebase	16	Tablebase	4
Telerate	3		
Tradeline	2	Tradeline	5
Uncover	18	Uncover	15
US Private	2	US Private	5
US Public	2	US Public	5
Value Line	10	Value Line	6
Wall Street Journal	17	WSJ	16
Wilson Bus. Abstracts	12	Wilson Bus. Abstracts	10
World Marketing Data & Statistics	2	World Marketing Data & Statistics	1
WorldBank Econ. Indicators	5	WorldBank Econ. Indicators	5
WorldData	5	World Data	5
Worldscope	22	Worldscope (D/Global)	21

The Most Popular Databases and Database Aggregations

In order to benchmark your libraries electronic business information resources, it is useful to have a ranking of the most widely accessed resources. Table 2 lists all databases and database aggregations listed in the 1998 and 1999 surveys ranked by the number of libraries providing access. In 1999 all respondents provided access to two databases from the survey list , ABI / Inform and Econlit. In 1998, ABI / Inform was the only database available in 100% of the libraries participating in the survey.

In 1998, fifteen or more libraries were providing access to the top 23 databases in the ranked list. In 1999, fifteen or more libraries were providing access to 32 databases. This is a substantial increase in access to electronic business information sources in these academic business libraries. This increase also reflects the work of the business selectors in these libraries as they continue to make decisions to add access to electronic resources at their institutions

The databases at the bottom end of Table 2 are resources that are accessed in only a few libraries. These selections reflect some unique characteristics of particular libraries. Some of these libraries are early adapters who have started to access some of the newer products on the market. A few selections from the bottom of this list will move up next year! Another group of the selections from the bottom of the ranked list are databases acquired to meet unique local needs or library users. A third category of selections are the expensive databases that are only affordable to select institutions.

Table 2

College & University Business Library Statistics, 1998/99

Database Ranking, 1998/99 (30 Libraries reporting)

Database Ranking, 1997/98 (31 Libraries reporting)

	Databases	Libraries with Access		Databases	Libraries with Access
1	ABI/Inform	30	1	ABI Inform	31
2	EconLit	30	2	Stat-USA	29
4	Jstor	29	4	Econlit	28
3	Social Sciences Citation Index	29	3	Nexis (Academic Universe)	28
5	Dow Jones Interactive	28	5	PsycInfo	25
6	Lexis Nexis Academic Universe	27	6	Investext	23
7	PAIS International	27	7	D/SEC CompactD	22
8	Stat USA	27	8	NTDB	21

9	PsycInfo	26	9	PAIS International	21
10	Global Access	25	10	Worldscope (D/Global)	21
11	Bloomberg	23	11	Business & Industry	20
12	Business & Industry	23	12	SSCI	20
13	Compact Disclosure	23	13	Bloomberg	19
14	NTDB (National Trade Data Bank)	23	14	Dow Jones News Retrieval	19
15	Statistical Universe	23	15	Amer. Business Directory	18
16	Worldscope	22	16	DataStream	17
17	Nexis	20	17	Dow Jones Interactive	16
18	Proquest direct	20	18	Proquest Direct	16
19	Hoovers	19	19	WSJ	16
20	New York Times	18	20	Dialog Information	15
21	S&P Research Insight NA	18	21	Global Access	15
22	Uncover	18	22	S&P Compustat PC Plus	15
23	DataStream	17	23	Uncover	15
24	Dialog Web	17	24	Academic Index	14
25	Int'l Financial statistics (IFS)	17	25	CRSP	14
26	Investext	17	26	GPO	14
27	NBER Working Papers	17	27	Hoovers	13
28	Wall Street Journal	17	28	Newspaper Abstracts	12
29	CRSP	16	29	NYTimes	12
30	ISI Emerging Markets	16	30	LaserD	11
31	Tablebase	16	31	Morningstar	11
32	Newspaper abstracts	15	32	First Call	10
33	Article First	14	33	Wilson Bus. Absts.	10
34	Bridge	14	34	Bridge	9
35	Reference USA	14	35	IFS	9
36	CCH Internet Tax Research	13	36	National Newspaper index	9
37	IBES	12	37	Business Periodicals ondisc	8
38	Morningstar	12	38	CCH Access	8
39	Wilson Bus. Abstracts	12	39	Corp. Affiliations Directory	8
40	Choices II	11	40	F&S Index +Text	8
41	Corp. Affiliatiyess Directory	11	41	General Business File	8
42	First Call	11	42	Accounting and Tax	7
43	Research Bank Web	11	43	BPI	7
44	Academic Index	10	44	Citibase	7
45	Duns MM Directory	10	45	Dateline	7
46	EIU Country Reports	10	46	Extel	7
47	Prompt	10	47	FARS	7
48	SDC (Securities Data Co.)	10	48	IAC Market Insight (Prompt)	7
49	Valueline	10	49	IBES	7
50	FIS Online	9	50	Infotrac (IAC)	7
51	General Business File	9	51	Internet Securities	7
52	Infotrac	9	52	OneSource	7
53	PW Researcher	9	53	PW Researcher	7
54	S&P Global Vantage	9	54	RIA	7
55	CorpTech directory	8	55	Wash. Post	7

56	Business Periodicals Ondisc	7	56	CorpTech directory	6
57	EIU Views Wire	7	57	Gale Business	6
58	GA Pro (LaserD) (Primark)	7	58	REIS	6
59	Gartner Web	7	59	Reuters	6
60	National Newspaper index	7	60	SDC (Securities Data)	6
61	OneSource	7	61	Thomas' Register	6
62	Reuters	7	62	US Imports & Exports	6
63	Accounting & Tax Index	6	63	Value Line	6
64	FARS	6	64	Corporate Profiles (IAC)	5
65	Career Search	5	65	Dialog Business Connection	5
66	Citibase	5	66	Duns MM Directory	5
67	EIU Business Intl Newsletters	5	67	EIU Country Reports	5
68	Gale business resources	5	68	Emerging Markets	5
69	Kalorama Academic	5	69	F&S International	5
70	RIA	5	70	IAC Business Insight (Trade & Industry)	5
71	Statistical Masterfile	5	71	S&P Global Vantage	5
72	WorldBank Econ. Indicators	5	72	Tradeline	5
73	WorldData	5	73	US Private	5
74	BPI	4	74	US Public	5
75	Business & Mgt. Practices (RDS)	4	75	World Data	5
76	Dow Jones N/R	4	76	Worldbank Econ. Indicators	5
77	Economic Lit. DB	4	77	Amer. Manuf. Directory	4
78	Extel	4	78	Business Index	4
79	F&S Index (Gale)	4	79	Choices II (Simmons)	4
80	Political Risk Yearbook	4	80	D/Select	4
81	Data Star	3	81	Data Star	4
82	Phonedisc	3	82	Datetimes	4
83	Telerate	3	83	Economic Literature DB	4
84	Amer. Mfgs. Directory	2	84	Phone disc	4
85	Business Index	2	85	Profiles in Business & Mgt.	4
86	Corp. Profiles	2	86	S&P stock reports	4
87	Data Times	2	87	Statistical Universe	4
88	Duns Business Locator	2	88	Tablebase	4
89	Global Market Information	2	89	Career Search	3
90	Nikkei	2	90	Nikkei	3
91	S&P Corporate Text	2	91	OECD Index	3
92	Survey of Buying Power	2	92	S&P Corporate Text	3
93	Tradeline	2	93	Statistical Masterfile	3
94	US Private	2	94	Articles First	2
95	US Public	2	95	D/Global Researcher	2
96	World Marketing Data & Stats	2	96	Index to Intl Economics	2
97	OECD Index	1	97	Moody's Intl ARS	2
98	Profiles in Bus & Mgt	1	98	Poll	2
99	Business Infosuite	0	99	World Development Report	2
			100	Amer. Big Business Directory	1
			101	Baseline	1

			102	Beta Quotes	1
			103	BNA Human Resource Index	1
			104	DRI (Data Resources)	1
			105	Duns Locator	1
			106	EIU Bus. Intl. Newsletters	1
			107	Helecon International	1
			108	Muni/IRIS	1
			109	S&P Edgar	1
			110	Survey of Buying Power	1
			111	Tax management Proffolios (BNA)	1
			112	Vestek	1
			113	World Marketing Data & Statistics	1

Summary

This article presents the data on access to databases and database aggregations collected as part of the CUBL survey. The value of the information presented in this article lies in the comparison of the portfolios presented above with the reader's institutional access. Another conclusion is that the mission of a particular library will have an impact on the selection of databases and aggregations that are being accessed at that institution.

With the development of the Internet, the development of electronic information and the distribution and access to this information is changing rapidly. Academic business libraries are moving to take advantage of the new content and new functionality that is being developed by information providers.

¹ Aggregations are compilations of electronic resources, data files, reports, journals and other electronic information. Aggregations meet two criteria. First, they are distributed by a single agency or group (an aggregator) with responsibility for maintaining the collection and selecting resources to be included in the aggregation. Second, they are prepared and distributed as a collection. See, William H. Walters, Samuel G. Demas, Linda Stewart and Jennifer Weintraub. *Guidelines for Collecting Aggregations of Web Resources*. (Working Paper) Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853, [1998].

² The survey is conducted annually. Thirty academic business libraries (see Appendix 2) responded to the 1998/99 survey. The participants represent academic business libraries supporting MBA programs with 'separately-housed' library facilities.

³ Schnedeker, Donald, "Academic Business Library Statistics, 1997/98." *Journal of Business and Finance Librarianship* (forthcoming).

⁴ Baker, Gayle and Flora Shrode, "A heuristic approach to selecting delivery mechanisms for electronic resources in academic libraries." *Journal of Library Administration* v. 26 no. 3-4 (1999) p. 153-67.

⁵ Norman, O. Gene, "The impact of electronic information sources on collection development: a survey of current practice." *Library Hi Tech* v. 15 no. 1-2 (1997) p. 123-32.

⁶ Terry, Ana Arias, "How today's technology affects libraries' collection choices." *Computers in Libraies* v. 20 no. 6 (June 2000) p. 51=5.