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EconLit

What Is EconLit and Why Should I Use It?

EconLit, published by the American Economic Association, provides bibliographic coverage of a wide range of economics-related literature. An expanded version of the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) indexes of journals, books, and dissertations, EconLit covers both economic theory and application.

Literature covered is of interest to researchers, academics, product managers, advertisers, product development specialists, and public policy professionals. EconLit includes information that is of prime relevance to many industries and research establishments world-wide.

Over 80% of all current records include abstracts. Also included are fulltext of book reviews published in the Journal of Economic Literature since 1993.

10 Reasons to Use EconLit

1. Access to over 800,000 records
2. Updated monthly, with approximately 30,000 new records added each year.
3. Advance searching capability of 22 indexed fields
4. Coverage dates back to 1969
5. Searching via Browsable Indexes
6. Access to the EconLit Thesaurus of Subject Descriptors
7. Automatic de-duping of search results
8. Provoked searches of the Recent References and Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities Databases
9. Ability to cross-search with other CSA Illumina databases
10. Easy citation formatting via QuikBib!

Subject Coverage

Major areas of coverage include:

- Agricultural and natural resource economics
- Business administration and business
- Country studies
- Economic development, technological change, and growth
- Economic history
- Financial economics
- General economics and teaching
- Health, education, and welfare
- Industrial organization
- International economics
- Labor and demographic economics
- Law and economics
- Macroeconomics and monetary economics
- Mathematical and quantitative methods
- Methodology and history of economic thought
- Microeconomics
- Public economics
- Urban, rural, and regional economics

**Full Record View**

For more additional information about the *EconLit* database, check out the CSA Illumina *EconLit Database FactSheet*. You can also access the Database FactSheet by clicking on the “?” icon next to the database name on the *Quick Search* or *Advanced Search* page.
Supplemental Complimentary Databases

When you search CSA Illumina social science databases, including *EconLit*, two supplementary databases are searched simultaneously: *Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities* and *Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities*. Access is included with a subscription to *EconLit* on the CSA Illumina platform.

**Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities**

This service supplements CSA Illumina by providing daily updates of citations from over 110 journals in the social sciences. Citations in this database include searchable fields for article title, author name, and journal title. If the search produces any matches to your search, you will see the choice for *Recent References Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities*. Citations identified include those not yet indexed in the CSA Illumina database(s) being searched.

**Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities**

The *Web Resources Related to the Social Sciences/Humanities* database is a collection of over 70,000 high-quality web sites relevant to the social sciences and linguistics, which are selected and indexed by our editors. Sites indexed include secondary sources providing specific, technical information of interest to a college-level audience, from respected, nonbiased sources such as educational institutions, government agencies, and scientific organizations. Also indexed are sites representing primary sources of interest to social science researchers. URLs are reviewed on a monthly basis, averaging a phenomenal rate of 98% active links.

**Subject Coverage**

Major areas of coverage include:
- Activism and Social Movements
- Civil and Human Rights
- Communication
- Crime
- Culture
- Demography & Population Studies
- Economics
- Education
- Employment Issues
- Physical and Mental Health
- International Relations
- Law
- Linguistics
- Marriage and Family
- Politics & Policy Science
- Psychology
Web Site Selection

Criteria
- Web sites must originate from a reputable source.
- Web sites must provide direct access to information.
- Editors do not include sites that are ephemeral.
- Editors avoid sites with an obvious political agenda.

Searchable Fields Codes for EconLit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Search Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>AB=</td>
<td>ab= Tax Reform Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Affiliation** | **AF**= | Tilburg University, Center for Economic Research  
af= George Washington U |
| **Accession Number** | **AN**= | an= 0820433 |
| **Author** | **AU**= | au= Gielen, Anne  
au= gielen, a |
| **Availability** | **AV**= | av= [http://www.elsevier.com/locate/inca/505578/](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/inca/505578/)  
Publisher's URL |
| **Copyright** | **CY**= | cy= 2006  
cy= Sage |
| **DOI*** | **DO**= | do= 10.1016/j.jpubeco.2006.07.001 |
| **Descriptors**** | **DE**= | de= Social Security and Public Pensions (H550)  
de= social security |
| **Editor** | **ED**= | ed= Dimitratos, Pavlos, ed |
| **Fulltext***** | **FT**= | ft= hong kong |
| **ISBN** | **IB**= | ib= 184376136X |
| **ISSN** | **IS**= | is= 0047-2727 |
| **Journal Name** | **JN**= | jn= Journal of Public Economics |
| **Keywords** | **KW**= | kw= human capital |
| **Notes** | **NT**= | nt= Notable: Boulding, Kenneth E |
| **Publisher** | **PB**= | pb= McGill-Queen's University Press |
| **Publication Type** | **PT**= | pt= working paper |
| **Publication Year** | **PY**= | py= 2007 |
| **References** | **RE**= | re= theory |
| **Source** | **SO**= | so= Transportation Research: Part A: Policy and Practice |
| **Title** | **TI**= | ti= pension plans |
| **Update** | **UD**= | ud= 200611 |

*DOI, DO*
A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) has been added to some records, starting in November 2003. The DOI uniquely identifies the electronic version of the source document.

**Descriptors, DE**
Descriptors are pre-approved, strictly defined terms that are used to identify key concepts of publications in a concise, comprehensive and consistent manner. A search in the Descriptors (DE=) field is a controlled vocabulary search. The Thesaurus is a tool that enables users to discover relevant controlled vocabulary, or descriptor terms, for use in search strategies. (See *Value-Added Features: Thesaurus* section for more information.)

***Fulltext, FT***
Use the Fulltext (FT=) field to search for your term(s) in the collection full-text book reviews available in the EconLit database. These book reviews are from the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) and appear starting with the September 1994 update.
Publication Types

**Publication Type, PT=**
The data in this field identifies the general type of document. The publication types in *EconLit* are as follows:

- book
- book review
- collective volume article
- dissertation
- journal article
- working paper

For more detailed information on these publication types, visit the *EconLit* webpage, Document Types Indexed in *EconLit*.

Selection Policy

Journals are selected for inclusion in *EconLit* on the basis of their economic content, which must be substantial or of equal emphasis in interdisciplinary journals. Documents from other publication types are chosen for inclusion through similarly rigorous methods.

We monitor demands in the field, listen to recommendations from librarians and other subject specialists, and welcome suggestions from our users. We are happy to hear which journals you deem “must have” coverage items for this database. Please contact CSA Technical Support, support@csa.com, with your suggestions.

Serials Source List

The current Serials Source List with ISSN information is available in the *EconLit* Database FactSheet.
Boolean Operators and Other Search Tools Supported by CSA Illumina

**Boolean Operators** help define relationships between words or groups of words.

**AND**
Use to narrow a search and retrieve records containing all of the words it separates.

**OR**
Use to broaden a search and retrieve records containing any of the words it separates.

**NOT**
Use to narrow a search and retrieve records that do not contain the term following it.

**()**
Use to group words or phrases when combining Boolean phrases and to show the order in which relationships should be considered.

**Proximity Operators** identify the number of words to come between search terms.

**WITHIN**
"X"
Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than “X” words between search terms.

**NEAR**
Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than 10 words between search terms.

**Special Symbols** can expand the scope of your search.

* Truncate using an asterisk. This expands a search term to include forms of a root word, e.g. delinquen* retrieves delinquency, delinquent, etc.

* Find an unlimited number of characters within a word, e.g. behavi*r retrieves behavior and behaviour

? Find alternative spellings. The ? represents any single character; ?? represents two characters and so on. Use within or at the end of a word, e.g. wom?n finds woman as well as women.

**Ready, Set, Search! Using CSA Illumina to Search EconLit**

Now that you have an understanding of what EconLit is and how the searchable field codes and search tools function, you are ready to search the database through CSA Illumina.
Clicking on the **Help & Support link** in the upper-right hand corner at any time will direct you to a context-specific Help page.

**Quick, Advanced, or Command Searching**

On CSA Illumina, search strategies can be applied using one of three approaches.

- **Quick Search** restricts your search to Anywhere (AY=). An Anywhere search searches across all of the available fields in a record. Multiple words entered into the search field will be treated as a phrase.

- **Advanced Search** gives you the advantage of being able to select any of the field codes from a pull-down menu. The separate search boxes are formatted to include the Boolean Operators to help guide you in formatting your search. Notice that the Advanced Search screen has multiple tabs to further limit your search including, All, Published Works, and Scholars. The All tab will execute your search against both all published materials and the scholar profiles. If you select the Published Works tab, your search will be run solely on those materials. To find only Scholar profiles, select to the Scholars tab. (The Scholars tab is available if your institution subscribes to the Community of Scholars product.)
- **Command Search**, or professional search, may be preferred by advanced users who are comfortable with entering search strategies without aid of a template. **Command Search** is available in the Search Tools tab.

**Limits**

If you select the Published Works tab, search strategies may be refined by using the following limits (available in Advanced Search and Command Search):

- **Date Range** limits retrieval to records published within a specific date range.
- **Latest Update** limits your results to include only the most recent records that were added to the database. *EconLit* is updated monthly, with approximately 30,000 new records added each year.
- **Journal Articles Only** limits the search to only include the publication type of journal articles.
- **English Only** limits retrieval to only records that are available in English.
Results Page

Sort by
The sorting features give you the opportunity to order your results based on the publication date or relevancy.

- **Most Recent First** displays the records in order beginning with the most recent.
- **Relevance Rank** displays records in order based on relevancy. Relevancy is determined through a rating system that weighs the records based on the number of times the term(s) appear in the record and where they appear.

Type Tabs
The content of the *EconLit* database is classified as *Published Works*, *Scholars*, and *Web Sites*.
• The **Published Works tab** is the results page default and includes various publication types. Publication type tabs for *EconLit* include: Journals, Peer-Reviewed Journals, Conferences, Books, Book Reviews, Reports, Dissertations, and Other. These categories are not mutually exclusive (e.g. a record categorized under the Peer-Reviewed Journal tab would also be included in the Journals tab).

• The **Scholars tab** is a unique tool for finding scholars and organizations around the world by specific area of study that can be found in the complimentary *Community of Scholars: Social Science* or the *Community of Scholars: Complete* database by subscription. (The Scholars tab is available if your institution subscribes to the *Community of Scholars* product.)

• The **Web Sites tab** contains web sites relevant to your search query. These web sites have been carefully selected and reviewed by CSA’s editorial staff, and include useful academic, governmental, technical, and scientific web resources.

**Viewing Records**

When viewing records, notice that the title of the record, *View Record*, and both the author and descriptors are hyperlinked. To view the Full Record, click on either the title of the record or the *View Record* link. Clicking on the author name or a descriptor will search the database for each occurrence of the selected author or descriptor.

**Marked Records**

While reviewing your search results, add relevant records to your *Marked Records* list by checking them off and clicking the *Update Marked List* link at the top of the results list.
Print, Save, and Email Records

Once you have added records to your Marked Records list, click on the Save, Print, E-mail link at the top of the search results list. You can choose to work with your Marked Records or a range of records. To email records to yourself or someone else, type a message in the Comments box, enter email addresses in the To: and From: boxes, and click the Email button. To save records, select a File format, and click the Save button.

To quickly and easily create a bibliography in one of numerous popular bibliographic output styles, use CSA Illumina’s QuikBib! feature. Simply chose a document format (e.g. Microsoft Word), choose a bibliographic output style (e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago) and click Create. (Note: Only records for Published Works will be processed.)

Output options also include a direct export feature to RefWorks, an online research management tool. (The Export to RefWorks button will only work if you have a personal subscription to the product, or if your institution subscribes to RefWorks.)
Showing Records

Use the **Show Format drop-down menu** at the bottom of search results list to change how records are displayed. Options include displaying records in the **Short format, Full format, Full format- no references**, and **Custom format**.

Duplicate Records

CSA Illumina automatically removes, or “de-dupes,” any duplicate records that may appear in your set of results, displaying only the most complete record. If your search has retrieved duplicate records, you will see a **Show Duplicates link** at the bottom of your search results list. Click on the **Show Duplicates** link to display the duplicates. This is especially useful when you are cross-searching multiple databases that cover some of the same publications.
Value-Added Features

The CSA Illumina platform offers a number of value-added features to help with the search process and maximize the relevancy of search results. These features include Alerts, Saved Searches, Thesaurus, Indexes and Scholar Profiles.

Alerts

Saving a search strategy as an Alert will prompt CSA Illumina to automatically search your selected database(s) for new content each week. After creating a personal profile, you will receive an email message on a weekly basis that contains up to 250 new records from each database that has new matching content. (Note: Since EconLit is updated monthly, you will only receive Alert emails when new content is added.)

To set up an Alert:

1. Run a search strategy in your selected database(s).
2. Click the Search History link in the upper right-hand corner of any search screen.
3. Click the Save as Alert link next to the search strategy you wish to use.
4. Enter your email address and password, and click the Continue button. (If you are a new user, then click the New User? Create a personal profile link.)
5. From the **Format drop-down menu**, choose the format in which the search results will be emailed: *Short format, Full format, Full format- no references*, and *Custom format*.

6. You may choose to delimit your citations by Journal Article only or English only.

7. You may also deselect database(s) from the search query, or enter comments to appear with the search results when emailed.

8. Click the **Save as Alert button**.

An **Alert** remains in effect for six months. Shortly before the six-month period concludes, you will receive an email from CSA Illumina with the option of continuing or deleting the **Alert**. **Alerts** can be renewed, modified or deleted at any time by logging into your personal profile with CSA Illumina.

**Saved Searches**

As with **Alerts**, a search strategy can be saved in your personal profile with CSA Illumina so that you can quickly login at any time and run the search again. This is particularly useful when you have worked out a complex, successful search strategy that you plan to run on a regular basis.
To Save a Search:

1. Run a search strategy in your selected database(s).
2. Click the Search History link in the upper right-hand corner of any search screen.
3. Click the Save link next to the search strategy you wish to use.
4. To view your saved searches, click on the Saved Searches link under History tab in the Search Tools area.

A saved search remains in your personal profile for six months. Shortly before the six-month period concludes, you will receive an email from CSA Illumina with the option of renewing the saved search. Saved searches can be renewed, modified or deleted at any time by logging into your personal profile with CSA Illumina.

Thesaurus

A Thesaurus is a tool that provides a standard set of terms, otherwise known as descriptors, which enables users to search on significant concepts in a given subject area. Descriptors are pre-approved, strictly defined terms that are used to identify the key concepts of publications in a concise, comprehensive and consistent manner. A search in the Descriptors (DE=) field is a controlled vocabulary search for Thesaurus terms.

The EconLit Thesaurus contains terms, or subject descriptors, that can be used to narrow a search to find the most relevant search results. The controlled vocabulary terms in the EconLit Thesaurus are the same as the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) classifications, which are also known as the American Economic Association Classification System. A zero has been added to the JEL classification to make a four-digit descriptor code that displays next to the descriptor term. For example, the JEL
classification "L51 – Economics of Regulation" appears in the *EconLit* database as "Economics of Regulation (L510).” For more detailed information on Thesaurus terms, visit the *EconLit* webpage, Search Hints: Subject Classification System.

On the CSA Illumina platform, you can browse the Thesaurus alphabetically, or search for a specific word or phrase. The **Remember Terms feature** allows you to save a term, and continue searching the Thesaurus until you have selected all relevant terms.

- The **Alphabetical Index** displays a simple alphabetized list of descriptors, or controlled vocabulary terms. Key terms are in bold and the [+] symbol appears next to terms that contain narrower terms within the hierarchy of the Thesaurus’ controlled vocabulary.

- The **Hierarchy** display shows the hierarchy of the descriptor, and its relationship to other terms in the Thesaurus. *Broader Terms, Narrower Terms, Related Terms*
and Use/Use for instructions are listed in this display. Scope notes, or brief statements of the meaning or usage of a term, and history notes also display where relevant.

- The Rotated Index, or permuted index, displays an alphabetical list of all thesaurus terms containing a selected word. This word can occur anywhere within a thesaurus term and it does not have to be the first word. You can only search for a single word, not a phrase, in the Rotated Index. This display also shows the [+] symbol beside terms that have narrower terms, and provides related terms and scope notes, where relevant. Click on a term to see broader terms, narrower terms and any additional information available.
To submit a search for selected terms, use the **New Search Using Marked Terms area** on the left-hand side of the screen. After selecting the appropriate terms, use the AND or OR Boolean operators to combine terms as necessary, and click on the **Search** button. The same search functions available in the **Quick Search**, **Advanced Search** and **Command Search**, including limits, date range, sorting, and display options can then be used to modify a Thesaurus search. The **Explode to include all narrower terms** feature searches for the marked term and all of its narrower terms.

**Indexes**

The *EconLit* database can also be searched through three browsable indexes: **Author Index**, **Journal Name Index**, and **Publication Type Index**. A browsable index is an alphabetical listing of terms used in a specific field of a database. You can browse this list to find various spellings of author names, what types of publications are covered by a particular database, or the names of journals indexed in a certain database. You can either browse the indexes alphabetically, or search for a specific word or phrase. The
**Remember Terms feature** allows you to save a term, and continue searching the Index until you have selected all relevant terms.

To submit a search for selected terms, use the **New Search Using Marked Terms area** on the left-hand side of the screen. After selecting the appropriate terms, use the AND or OR Boolean operators to combine terms as necessary, and click on the **Search** button. The same search functions available in the **Quick Search, Advanced Search and Command Search**, including limits, date range, sorting, and display options can then be used to modify an Index search.

**Scholar Profiles**

For users whose subscription package includes the **Community of Scholars: Social Science or Community of Scholars: Complete database**, profiles of active academic **Scholars** are provided as a supplemental resource to enhance your research. Click on the **Scholars** tab at the top of a search results list to access **Scholar profiles**. (The **Scholars** tab is available if your institution subscribes to the **Community of Scholars** product.)
A listing of relevant Scholars in the subject area searched is displayed with direct links to the full Scholar profiles. Scholars can be sorted by Relevancy Rank or Last Name.

**Community of Scholars profiles** include current contact information, educational background, website, link to CV, research interests, and verified publication lists, as available. Your search also provokes an automatic search in a cross-disciplinary collection of scholar profiles called the **Community Tree**.

Click on the (+) plus sign next to the major disciplines to see further sub-categories. The numbers in parentheses next to **Community Tree** disciplines and sub-disciplines indicates the number of Scholar profiles available for that category. Click on a category link to view relevant Scholar profiles.

**Scholar Profiles: Short View with Community Tree**

1. **Name:** Shray, Richard F.  
   **Affiliation:** Professor, School of Economics, Faculty of Law & Social Sciences, University of Nottingham  
   From Research Interests: His research interests lie largely in the field of applied microeconomics, including tax policy, social welfare reform and pensions policy, all in both developed and the developing countries, and the economics of labour markets, including retirement behaviour and wage structure.

2. **Name:** Stiglitz, Joseph  
   **Affiliation:** Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
   From Research Interests: Banking, Efficiency of Financial Institution, Information Technology, Productivity.

3. **Name:** Magrath, David A.  
   **Affiliation:** Past and Hope Bram Eminent Scholar, Director, Department of Economics, College of Social Sciences, Florida State University  
   From Publication Abstracts: 300,000 defined-contribution pension plans in the 1980s, we show that about one out of ten defined- . plans have some company stock in their pension plan. Pension funds are shown to be less likely. Economic analysis of private pension plans commonly assumes that incentives for long tenure and early retirement enhance workforce productivity. An implication of the productivity theory of pensions
To view the full Scholar profile, click on a Scholar name. The Co-Scholars tab indicates that verified Scholar profiles are available for co-authors of the selected scholar.

Scholar Profile: Full View

The Research Process

I) Begin the Research Process

A. Determine your goals:
   1. State your research question:
      “Do women entrepreneurs face greater challenges in financing small business ventures because of gender differences and discrimination?”
   2. Set parameters for your search:
“What specific areas of economic research are most relevant?”

B. Identify general concepts:
1. What are the areas of research?
   “female entrepreneurship, small business financing, gender discrimination”
2. What is the premise for this research?
   “Entrepreneurs face many challenges in acquiring and maintaining financing for small business ventures. Does gender affect an entrepreneur’s ability to obtain and raise finance? In particular, are women at a disadvantage?”
3. Which general terms relate to your search?
   "women entrepreneurs, female entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship, small business, financing, gender, discrimination”

C. Choose the appropriate database:
1. Is the EconLit Database a relevant source of information for this research question?
   Yes, the academic and scholarly research on economic theory and application available in the EconLit Database makes it a good choice.

II) Build your Search Strategy

A. Quick Search:
1. Enter phrase or multiple search terms separated by Boolean operators AND to link terms, OR to link similar words or synonyms, in the Quick Search box:
   "entrepreneurship and (women or gender)” or “entrepreneur* and (wom?n or female) and discrimination”
B. Advanced Search:
1. The Field Code drop-down boxes in the Advanced Search screen allow you to limit the search by any of the searchable field codes including Descriptor (DE=), Keyword (KW=), Publication Type (PT=) and Fulltext (FT=).
2. Enter phrase or multiple search terms separated by the Boolean operators AND to link terms, OR to link similar words or synonyms, provided in the Advanced Search screen:
   “DE= entrepreneur* and (DE= J160 or discrimination) and (KW= wom?n or female)” or “DE=entrepreneurship and KW=(wom?n or female) and KW=(discrimination or challeng*) and DE=(economics of gender)”
3. Note: Consult the EconLit Thesaurus in the Search Tools tab for relevant descriptors (DE=) to use as search terms. The EconLit Thesaurus contains terms, or subject descriptors, that can be used to narrow a search to find the most relevant search results. The controlled vocabulary terms in the EconLit Thesaurus are the same as the Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) classifications. A zero has been added to the JEL classification to make a four-digit descriptor code that displays next to the descriptor term. For example, the JEL classification "J16 – Economics of Gender, Non-labor Discrimination" appears in the EconLit database as "Economics of Gender, Non-labor Discrimination (J160). (See Value-Added Features: Thesaurus section for more information.)
III) Analyze Results

A. Relevant results:
   1. Review the retrieved results and determine whether they are satisfactory:

   - Add the most relevant records to your Marked Records list. Next, Save, Print, or Email the citations, export them to a research management tool like RefWorks, or create a bibliography using QuikBib!

B. If results are not relevant:
   1. Check spelling of search terms, and drop unnecessary or misleading terms.
   2. Increase precision: An excellent source for search terms is the EconLit Thesaurus. Utilizing controlled vocabulary, or descriptors, as search terms in the
Descriptor (DE=) field will increase the effectiveness of the search, and the number of relevant results retrieved.

3. Finally, you may need to rethink whether the database you selected is appropriate for your research.

C. Too few/too many results:
   1. Increase retrieval by using fewer ANDs and more ORs
   2. Increase precision by using additional ANDs and fewer ORs (NOT can be used to exclude some terms)

IV) Search Multiple Databases Simultaneously

You can also cross-search multiple CSA Illumina databases simultaneously to expand your search process and identify other sources of information. The *EconLit* database can be searched as a stand alone file or, alternatively, it can be accessed via a search of CSA Illumina databases that contain related research.
Contact CSA

For Technical Support: support@csa.com

For Training Requests: training@csa.com


For Sales Inquiries: sales@csa.com

For a complete list of CSA Illumina databases and other CSA products: http://www.csa.com/e_products/databases-collections.php

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