

How to find literature in Economics?

Some tips

Getting started... Get an overview over your topic. Review articles can be helpful to identify the different influences on the topic. Journals like the "Journal of Economic Literature" or "Journal of Economic Surveys" are specialized in review articles. Sometimes also Wikipedia is worth a look, although you should avoid using it as a definite source. If you try to understand the basics of a theory or method your paper is using a textbook is the best choice.

...how to find articles... Economic research and study results are reported in published **essays/articles/papers** and **books**. The majority of articles can be found in Journals, but not all Journals are of the same quality. Rankings can help to identify the top ones:

- RePEc:<http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>
- Handelsblatt:<http://tool.handelsblatt.com/tabelle/?id=33>
- Kiel Institute for the World Economy:<http://www.ifw-kiel.de/forschung/internal-journal-ranking>
- Tinbergen list:<http://www.tinbergen.nl/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/AIS-Econ-Bus-Fin-Marketing1.pdf>

A collection of Journal articles can be accessed at the University of Bayreuth. (Link: <http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/fl.phtml?colors=3&bibid=UBBAY>). In case you can not get an article important for your thesis contact your supervisor.

Articles have to pass a process called peer review to be published in Journals. During that process the article is reviewed by two or more other scientists who are experts in the discussed subject as well as the journal editor. Essays passing that review are likely to be of high quality. Formal essays should always contain references to other published works used to develop the presented idea. Research is an ongoing process where the result is driven by a lot of steps and influences from a collection of researchers. By going back to the essays referred to, the reader should be able to see where the ideas first appeared and how they have developed. Using the platforms listed below you also can search for articles that cited the essay you are using to see where the ideas have gone. (AEA, 2013)

Listed below you can find a collection of platforms where you can search information by subject, author, title, and individual words. They are also helpful to check if you are working with the most recent version of the paper.

- EconLit: <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/econlit>
- JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/>
- RFE-Resources for Economists on the Internet: <http://rfe.org/>
- RePEc IDEAS: <http://ideas.repec.org/>
- Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.com/>
- Catalog of US Government Publications: <http://catalog.gpo.gov/F>

...how to handle working papers... Very probable not all resources you will use are published yet. Some are in the peer reviewing process or still worked on. On that stage they are available online as **working papers** or **discussion papers**, so researcher can communicate what they are working on, spread the idea and get feedback. However they are not peer reviewed. If the same article is published in a journal already always use the published version. Working papers can also be found via the platforms listed above or sometimes on the authors Internet page. On IDEAS for example you should find all stages of the paper you are working with that are available online.

Important: Check your references again and make sure you use the most recent version before handing in your paper.

References

AEA (2013): "American Economic Association," <http://www.aeaweb.org/students/Econliterature.php>, Accessed: 2014-02-04.