Finding Statistics to Support Your Research
By Cheng Eng Aun
OVERVIEW

1. Outcome and scope
2. Mindmap for finding statistics
3. Sources of statistics
4. Alternatives when data not available
Outcome and Scope

• Awareness of sources of statistics
• Mindmap for searching the sources systematically
• Alternatives if data is not readily available

→ Improve your effectiveness and chances of finding statistics
Outcome and Scope

• Not about methodology
• Not listing data types exhaustively – Advisory service
• The role of experience and iterative searches
Mindmaps

1. Broad steps of searching
2. Best sources by type and nature of statistics
3. Best sources by subject
1. Broad Steps of Searching

1. Statistical Databases
2. Public Agencies
3. Data Repositories
4. Archival Data
   Citation Pearl Growing
Statistical Databases

• Over 20 statistical databases in NUS Libraries
  • Listings @ Statistics, Economics and Marketing subject guides

• Good source for
  • Socio-economic and company statistics
  • Aggregated statistics

CEIC Data
Socio-economic statistics

D&B Business Browser
Company statistics
Public Agencies

- Local, national and international agencies
  - Statistical agencies
  - Regulatory agencies

- Data availability limited by
  - Obligation to publish
  - Data sensitivity
  - Funding

- Listing @ Economics guide
Microdata

IPUMS Databases
- Census microdata of over 80 countries
- Free, but application required

ICPSR
- Demographic, healthcare and human development microdata
- NUS Libraries subscription – free to use
Data Repositories

- Mandates for researchers to publish data
- Deposit in data repositories
- re3data.org – Registry of Research Data Repositories
- ScholarBank@NUS
4 Archival Data

- Government and organizational records
- NUS Libraries has a rich collection of records
- EAI Library: China and East Asia
- ISEAS Library: Southeast Asia
- Request to purchase records

Example: Colonial Office Records
## 2. Best Sources by Type and Nature of Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Granularity</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Private</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregated Data</td>
<td>CEIC Data, National Agencies</td>
<td>International Organizations</td>
<td>Gartner, Frost &amp; Sullivan, Passport, D&amp;B Business Browser</td>
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<td>CEIC Data, Country Databases, National Agencies</td>
<td>International Organizations</td>
<td>Specific Regulatory Agencies</td>
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<td>National Agencies, IPUMS, ICPSR, EUROSTAT, Repositories (re3data)</td>
<td>IPUMS, ICPSR, EUROSTAT, Repositories (re3data)</td>
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</table>
Alternatives

• Citation pearl growing
• Unpaywall
• Request to purchase the data
Citation Pearl Growing

1. Look for a very relevant research paper
2. Trace the reference for sources of data
3. Search the data in
   1. Accompanying websites
   2. Research data repository
Unpaywall

- Free tool
- Search for freely accessible version of article
- Articles in repository may contain datasets
### 3. Best Sources by Subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential sources of data</th>
<th>Archival records</th>
<th>Research data repository</th>
<th>Statistical databases</th>
<th>National agencies</th>
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Advisory Service

• Contact us for one-on-one discussion on your needs

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• Your resource librarians
Thank You
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