

Economics

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the Department of Economics. The collections serve all staff and students in the Department; and staff and students in other departments whose courses include an element of economics, especially the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development. Interdisciplinary areas include, particularly, development, finance, history and politics.

Research

The Department of Economics has six research centres:

- Centre for Institutional Performance
- John H Dunning Centre for International Business
- Economic Analysis Research Group
- International Centre for Housing and Urban Economics
- Centre for the study of Developing Economies and Emerging Markets
- Research Centre for Late Antiquity and Byzantine Home

Staff from the Department are also involved in the Centre for Economic History.

A detailed list of academic staff research interests is maintained on the Department's web site:

www.reading.ac.uk/economics/pg-research/econ-pgr-expertise.aspx

Dimensions of teaching and learning

Economics can be studied as part of a joint honours undergraduate course in combination with many other subjects. A full list of the programmes available is available on the department's website:

www.reading.ac.uk/economics

Current holdings

Most materials fall into the 330-339 (economics and finance) and 381-2 (trade) sections of the classification. For more detail see the Economics *Finding your way* guide.

Books, ebooks and government documents

Printed monographs required for teaching and current research projects are held on open access. A number of lesser-used, research-level items which relate to Economics are housed in closed access or in our off-site store.

In addition to printed monographs, a large number of e-books are available via the Library's catalogue and electronic databases. Access is provided to Oxford Handbooks Online, and Taylor and Francis E-books. Individual e-book versions of in-demand titles, especially relevant to teaching, are made available via aggregators such as MyiLibrary and EBL.

Amongst the monograph volumes are some discussion paper and working paper series.

The Parliamentary Papers collection is available online and includes material of interest to the Department e.g. reports from the Competition Commission, Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, and the Treasury. It also includes annual reports of government departments and quangos, as well as public expenditure details.

The European Documentation Centre includes not only the Official journal (now online), but also periodicals and statistics. Books donated by the European Commission are in the main collection.

Periodicals

Economics maintain several current periodical subscriptions in print and online. Some of these titles are jointly funded by other units, including Agriculture, Policy and Development and Real Estate & Planning. The economics journal collections are boosted by subscriptions to online full text resources, primarily Business Source Complete, but also JSTOR, Sage, ScienceDirect and Taylor & Francis.

The full text of major UK newspapers, including the Financial Times back to 1996, is accessible via ProQuest Newsstand and Lexis Nexis Professional. Additionally, we have access to the full archives of the Financial Times, the Guardian and the Times. LexisNexis Professional and Westlaw provide full text access to law journals and case reports.

Reference/bibliographic

The main printed reference materials relevant to economics are in the 4th Floor Reference section of the Library. There are specialist encyclopedias, dictionaries, research handbooks, company directories and biographical dictionaries. The electronic reference resources, *Oxford Reference Online* and *Credo Reference* have many resources relevant to economics including economics dictionaries.

As well as the full text databases there are bibliographic databases such as International Bibliography of Social Sciences, EconLit and the Social Science Citation Index.

Company information is covered by FAME, Amadeus, Osiris, OneSource Global Business Browser and Morningstar Company Intelligence. Market information reports are available via Passport and Business Source Complete

Indexes to government publications and indexes to official statistics are also available in the reference section on the 4th floor. British government publications are indexed online on the government websites and via UKOP (United Kingdom Official Publications).

Related special collections

The Overstone Collection

This comprises nearly 8,000 printed volumes, broadly humanities and social sciences in scope. It was collected by John Ramsey McCulloch (1789-1864), the political economist, and Samuel Jones Loyd, Baron Overstone (1796-1883), the banker.

Strengths and exclusions

The particular strengths are in the areas of business economics, including international business economics, transitional economies, particularly in relation to eastern and central Europe and China, and development economics. Research students and staff are likely to use other libraries.

The collection mainly concentrates on the following geographical areas: UK, EU, Asia principally central Asian republics, China and the Pacific area.

Areas for development are labour economics, experimental economics and, especially for research purposes, increasing the range of data sources.

Collecting level

Support for undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses is a priority. Undergraduates find most of the material they need for their dissertations in the Library and we also aim to hold at least one copy of all items on undergraduate / taught postgraduate reading lists.

Reference materials are purchased as funds permit.

Material at research level is acquired selectively and only purchased as funds allow, upon the specific request of academic staff members. Researchers / academic staff are able to use Inter-library library loans to access research level material not sufficiently catered for by the Library.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

Inter-Library loans for undergraduates (where necessary), postgraduates and staff are funded by the Department. Staff and Research postgraduates in the Department order Inter-library loans online via the Library catalogue. Undergraduates and taught postgraduates continue to use a printed form which can be counter-signed by a tutor or supervisor.

Use of other libraries

With the increased availability of materials online less use is being made of other libraries. Such visits tend to be for specialist of historical material.

The London School of Economics and Political Science holds a significant research collection.

The British Business Information Service at the British Library holds one of the most comprehensive collections of business information in the UK.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

Any books which appear on reading lists are bought for the Library, unless very expensive. They will normally be ordered by the convenor, but can be ordered by the Liaison Librarian. The Liaison Librarian can make suggestions for other books, but the decision rests with the Library Representative.

There are a large number of multiple copies of textbooks purchased. For first year courses often two or more core texts are recommended. Although students are expected to buy these, the Library has 8-10 copies of each text. Two copies are normally added to the Course Collection, two copies are standard loan and the rest are 7-day loans.

Only a small proportion of the books are non-English Language. For students studying economics with a foreign language, there are business dictionaries, but only a few texts in French, German or Italian.

The Liaison Librarian selects material to be considered for withdrawal or relegation. Many of the core textbooks are regularly updated and the current and immediately preceding editions are kept with older editions automatically withdrawn, unless a new edition does not include a chapter which was considered important; if a member of academic staff identifies this, the older edition is kept.

For duplicates, if usage does not justify keeping more than one copy (fewer than five loans per year) they are withdrawn.

Other books which have not been loaned in the past 10 years are considered for removal to the off-site store or withdrawal.

Policy written by Gordon Connell, Economics Liaison Librarian, July 2015