

A13 Online databases

Table A.13a Strengths and weaknesses of online databases

'Strengths'	'Weaknesses'
• Multi-topic search (matching parameters) is easier;	• Few public (cheap) and reliable databases available;
• Forces researcher to think through the research question before starting a particular quest;	• Sophisticated databases are often expensive;
• Complements library sources (taps many more sources systematically);	• Bias for English language sources;
• Once a search has been executed, it can easily be abstracts;	• Often no inexpensive texts available, only repeated and/or updated;
• Quick search on keywords is possible.	• Database producers often have a vested interest in maintaining traditional divisions in disciplines;
	• Complex protocols and procedures, lack of standards;
	• Possibilities for 'browsing' (making accidental discoveries) are more limited;
	• Databases have a delay (see below).

A13 Qualitative databases

Table A.13b Qualitative databases

Available information	Name
Current events	Business papers, Reuters database
ICT	Gartner
Scientific Articles	ABI/Inform, Business Source Premier, EmeraldFulltext, Springer, Science Direct
Research reports	WoPEC, SSRN

A13 Quantitative databases

Table A.13c Quantitative databases

Available information	Name of quantitative database
Business and stock market information	Thomson databases, AnnualReports.info, Datastream
Statistics	Financial Times
Macro-economic information	Source OECD, Economist, FED, ECB, Government sites