

LIS520 - Group 1: Cara Ball, Nora Bos, Mahrya Draheim, Nancy Klinefelter, Gabor Por, & Erin Schlicht

Search Exercise 5:

-Pretend you are a librarian working at UW and are asked for help by a student with the following request:

“I’m doing a paper on why inflation rates remained low during the 1990s even though salaries were high and unemployment was at an all time low. Where can I find this information?”

We would begin this search with a brief reference interview with the student getting a better idea of what he/she actually wants to find out. We would ask questions regarding what kind of class the assignment was for, the length and depth of the assignment and how much research had already been done by the student.

We first looked in the Research Database section of the UW libraries website. From there, we went to the “Economics” section from the Resources by Subject list. There are a few databases to choose from in the Economics category: EBSCO, Proquest Business, Econlit. These databases search for articles, papers and dissertations on the given subject. The Social Science Research Network could also be used. We asked the student if they had used the databases before, and explained how to log in to the site from off-campus.

Each database was searched using the keywords “low inflation”, “low unemployment”, and “1990s”. The results from these searches yielded between 20 and 30 articles on average. The relevant articles were pointed out to the student, explaining how to print out or find the full text article. We each found articles dealing with a theory called “Phillips Curve”, so we thought it was important that the student know about that theory.

After searching the on-line journals, we tried to look for a book in the UW catalog on the topic. Twelve entries were retrieved, but none of them were relevant. We then searched on the Google Book Search database and found a seemingly relevant book by using the keywords “unemployment (interest rate) inflation (US or USA) 1990s”.

By using a variety of databases and searches, we were able to point the student in the right direction for finding the information needed for their assignment. While we performed the search, we explained the steps of the search to the student so that he/she might be better able to perform a similar search on their own in the future. Finally, we closed the encounter with an invitation to return should there be anything else the student might need.