News & Notes… From the Business & Economics Liaison Librarian

BRIColage: Brazil, Russia, India & China

- Brazil as an economic superpower?: understanding Brazil’s changing role in the global economy / Lael Brainerd, Leonardo Martinez, Diaz, editors. Library Call No: HC 187 B66 2009.

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Linda Lowry, Business & Economics Liaison Librarian
Here is a sampling of some new titles related to the economics of food and water. For additional titles, please use the Brock Library Catalogue to search by keyword.

  “A unified discussion of groundwater and its economic importance, Groundwater Economics explores the application of economic evaluation and cost/benefit analysis for the use, protection, remediation and conservation of groundwater.” [publisher’s web site].

  “In Planet Water, water investment expert Steven Hoffmann explains the dynamics driving the water crisis and identifies investment opportunities in various sectors of the water industry.” [publisher’s web site].

  “Bakker engages with broader debates over the role of the private sector in development, the role of urban communities in the provision of "public" services, and the governance of public goods. She introduces the concept of "governance failure" as a means of exploring the limitations facing both private companies and governments.” [Book Jacket].

  “Cribb lays out a vivid picture of impending planetary crisis—a global food shortage that threatens to hit by midcentury—which he argues would dwarf any in our previous experience.” [Book Jacket].

  “Food. It has helped to shape our communities for 400 years. Now, for the first time and in a provocative new book, author Gord Hume explores the relationship food has with building strong communities, how it is changing neighbourhoods and local economies, and how food and food-related issues have become critical new challenges for municipal councils.” [publisher’s web site].
Economics: the Dismal Science?

The Dismal Science is a phrase coined in the 19th century by Thomas Carlyle to describe economics. Economics and Capitalism have been the focus of much debate over the years. Here is a selection of recent titles in our Library that take a critical look at Economics.

- **The Economics Anti-textbook: a Critical Thinker's Guide to Microeconomics** / Rod Hill and Tony Myatt. Black Point, NS: Fernwood, 2010. Library Call No: HB 171 H637 2010. Crafted by two professors from the University of New Brunswick, this book “puts the controversy and excitement back into economics to reveal a fascinating and a vibrant field of study—one which is more an ‘art of persuasion’ than it is a science.” [publisher’s web site].


- **ECONned: how Unenlightened Self-interest Undermined Democracy and Corrupted Capitalism** / Yves Smith. New York: Palgrave, 2010. Library Call No: HC 106.83 S65 2010. “ECONned is the first book to examine the unquestioned role of economists as policy-makers, and how they helped create an unmitigated economic disaster. Here, Yves Smith looks at how economists in key policy positions put doctrine before hard evidence, ignoring the deteriorating conditions and rising dangers that eventually led them, and us, off the cliff and into financial meltdown.” [publisher’s web site].


For a current list of new books, see the New Titles page on the Library Web Site at: [http://library.brocku.ca/newbooklist/](http://library.brocku.ca/newbooklist/)
Datastream Quick Start Training Videos

The Datastream database is now available from any Library workstation via the Library’s Citrix Server. Look for Datastream Advance in the Start Menu which will take you to our Citrix Server login page. I have prepared a number of quick start training videos to introduce new users to this powerful financial and economic time series database. Each video is 3 minutes long and includes narration and a transcript.

- Part 1: Introduction to Datastream Advance 5.0
- Part 2: Using the Datastream Add-in for Excel
- Part 3: Using Navigator and Criteria Search
- Part 4: Using Explorer

The videos are located on the Library web site on the Finance Research Guide:

Wharton Research Data Services Access & Training

- Some key accounting and financial research datasets such as Compustat and CRSP are accessible via the Wharton Research Data Service (WRDS). Brock University Faculty and Graduate Students are eligible for WRDS accounts, while Undergraduate Students can use class accounts created by their instructors, or they can access WRDS on a temporary basis by registering for a 24 hour Day Pass.
- Training for new WRDS users is available within WRDS by clicking on the Support tab in WRDS (for basic help, learning about the data, computing resources, tools & references).
- E-learning is offered for WRDS users via real-time classes hosted by WRDS (advance registration is required). These video presentations are then archived on the WRDS E-Learning page along with course materials. There are beginner courses on topics such as “3 ways of working with WRDS” and “tracking companies over time” and more advanced courses on SAS techniques.
- If you would like more information on WRDS, or would like a brief hands-on introduction to the WRDS web site, please feel free to contact me.