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Literacy in Higher Education & the Workplace

Some New Year’s Humour

Open access books, journals & data
## New Titles in International & Comparative Economics

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Call No</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Publisher’s website</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Why Australia prospered.</em> the shifting sources of economic growth*</td>
<td>Ian W. McLean</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
<td>HD 82 M3345 2013</td>
<td>“This book is the first comprehensive account of how Australia attained the world’s highest living standards within a few decades of European settlement, and how the nation has sustained an enviable level of income to the present”.</td>
<td><a href="#">publisher’s web site</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Oxford companion to the economics of Africa</td>
<td>E. Aryeetey, S. Devarajan, R. Kanbur, and L. Kasekende</td>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
<td>HC 800 O94 2012</td>
<td>This “is a definitive and comprehensive account of the key issues and topics affecting Africa’s ability to grow and develop. It includes 53 thematic and 48 country perspectives by a veritable who’s who of more than 100 leading economic analysts of Africa”.</td>
<td><a href="#">publisher’s web site</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Capitalism from below: markets and institutional change in China</td>
<td>Victor Nee and Sonja Opper</td>
<td>Harvard University Press</td>
<td>HC 427.95 N44 2012</td>
<td>“Studying over 700 manufacturing firms in the Yangzi region, Victor Nee and Sonja Opper argue that China’s private enterprise economy bubbled up from below. Through trial and error, entrepreneurs devised institutional innovations that enabled them to decouple from the established economic order to start up and grow small, private manufacturing firms. Barriers to entry motivated them to build their own networks of suppliers and distributors, and to develop competitive advantage in self-organized industrial clusters”.</td>
<td><a href="#">publisher’s web site</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland’s economic history: crisis and development in the North and South</td>
<td>Gerard McCann</td>
<td>Pluto Press</td>
<td>HC 260.5 M37 2011</td>
<td>“With clarity and depth, Gerard McCann explores the complex developments that have shaped Ireland’s economic development, north and south, and led to recurring crises and instability”</td>
<td><a href="#">publisher’s web site</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The political economy of Russia</td>
<td>Neil Robinson</td>
<td>Rowman &amp; Littlefield</td>
<td>HC 336.27 P654 2013</td>
<td>“This timely book explores Russia’s political development since the collapse of the USSR and how inextricably it has been bound up with economic change. Tracing the evolution of Russia’s political economy, leading scholars consider how it may continue to develop going forward”.</td>
<td><a href="#">publisher’s web site</a></td>
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Information Literacy in Higher Education

Are your students information literate? What do I mean by “information literate”? Read this brief passage from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL):

Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning. An information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally (ACRL, 2000).

If you feel that your students could benefit from some additional training, there are several options now available for self-directed study:

- **Library Help 24/7** ([http://www.brocku.ca/library/help-lib](http://www.brocku.ca/library/help-lib)). Video tutorials and helpful guides on finding books, articles, and advanced research skills.

Information Literacy in the Workplace in the 21st Century

Information literacy is not just a relevant competency for students—there is demonstrated need for such skills in the 21st century workplace. For a brief review of the literature, see Sharon Weiner’s article in the Winter 2011 issue of Education Libraries.

A recent study released by Project Information Literacy examined the research habits and information problem solving experiences of recent college graduates as well as the needs and expectations of their employers and was based on interviews with 23 employers and 33 recent graduates in the U.S. The report is titled “Learning curve: how college graduates solve information problems once they join the workplace” and is available online at: [http://projectinfolit.org/pdfs/PIL_fall2012_workplaceStudy_FullReport.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/pdfs/PIL_fall2012_workplaceStudy_FullReport.pdf)

This report’s findings suggest that “there is a distinct difference between today’s graduates who demonstrated how quickly they found answers online and seasoned employers who needed college hires to use a combination of online and traditional methods to conduct comprehensive research”.
Open Access: Books, Journals, and Data

“Open Access” to information or OA, refers to the “free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research” (http://www.openaccessweek.org/pag/about).

Open Access Week is a global event that has been held each year in October for the past six years. Brock University Library celebrated Open Access Week from October 22-28, 2012 by hosting a series of events including: a roundtable featuring editors of peer-reviewed open access journals, a session on finding copyright-free materials, a panel session on the spiraling cost of scholarly publishing and the benefits of open access, and a lunch and learn session on open access business, social, and geospatial data.

The following resources can help you to discover and access OA books and journals:

- **Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)** (http://www.doabooks.org/doab) features over 1200 academic peer-reviewed books from 35 publishers.
- **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)** (http://www.doaj.org) links to over 8,000 open access scientific and scholarly journals.

Open data is defined as “data that can be freely used, reused and distributed by anyone—subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike” (http://okfn.org/opendata/).

- The United States Government maintains an open data portal (http://www.data.gov) and links to open public data sites around the world (http://www.data.gov/opendatasites).
- The Government of Canada also has an Open Data portal (http://www.data.gc.ca) and links to other open data sites across Canada.