Emerging Markets Queries in Finance and Business

Some observations regarding the international databases

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Abstract

A national database (NDB) or an international one (abbreviated IDB), also named often as "data bank", represents a method of storing some information and data on an external device (a storage device), with the possibility of an easy extension or an easy way to quickly find these information. Therefore, through IDB we don`t only understand a bibliometric or bibliographic index, which is a collection of references, that normally represents the "soft", but also the respective IDB "hard", which is the support and the storage technology. Usually, a database – a very comprehensive notion in the computer's science – is a bibliographic index, compiled with specific purpose, objectives and means. In reality, the national and international databases are operated through management systems, usually electronic and informational, based on advanced manipulation technologies in the virtual space. On line encyclopedias can also be considered and are important international database (IDB). WorldCat, for example, is a world catalogue, that included the identification data for the books within circa 71.000 libraries in 112 countries, data classified through Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), with the participation of the libraries in the respective countries, especially of those that are national library.

Keywords: database; national database (NDB); international database (IDB); knowledge; on-line encyclopedia; Wikipedia; WorldCat

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1. Generic notions about databases

According to Wikipedia – the biggest online encyclopaedia, a database, sometimes called "data bank" represents a method of storing some information and data on an external device (a storage device), with the possibility of an easy extension or an easy way to quickly find these information. Given that it is about working with millions of elements, each of which consists of large amounts of information that has to be accessed simultaneously through Internet by thousands of internet users spread across the globe, when the application availability and categorized knowledge must be permanent (for ex. in order not to lose time with the parallel discoveries in science), the solutions followed for documentation are not at all simple. Originally, the databases were stored on clay tablets, than paper, more recently magnetic media, and currently the biggest database is – figuratively – the cyberspace. The databases are manipulated using the management systems for databases.

The most common type of database is the relational database, in which data is stored in tables. Besides tables, a relational database can contain indexes, stored procedures, triggers, users and groups of users, types of data, security and transaction management mechanisms, etc. Examples of international databases can be considered also the following (in alphabetical order) ABC-CLIO, ArXiv (a preprint collection, no references to published works) Audiostreet, Didactics of Mathematics, Jahrbuch Database, MRLookup, Scientific and Technical Network, SPIRES, Zentralblatt MATH.

The most popular international databases for social sciences are: Cabell, DOAJ (Direction of Open Access Journals), EBSCO Publishing, ECON Papers, ICAAP, IBSS (International Bibliography of the Social Sciences), RePEc, SCIRUS, SUWECO.

When choosing a database, it is very important to verify if it meets the following conditions: a) has been recently updated; b) presents a high degree of data accuracy; c) offers the possibility of applying multiple selection criteria; d) is based on a proper way in which data has been collected.

According to Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University, William Clark U. of Chicago Press, 2006, the first bibliographic index, including of course socio-human works, hence the term "index" for these databases and the term "indexed paper" was a list of forbidden works, made by the Catholic Church in the 16th century: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_Librorum_Prohibitorum.

Today, an exhaustive list of databases, not all IDB, used as starting point is: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines

2. **International databases**†
The most known IDB, based on own choice, obviously subjective are the following:

 British Library
 It is the national library of the United Kingdom located in London, one of the most prestigious libraries in the world.

 CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)
 See CSA Illumina.

 CSA Illumina (Former Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)

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Is a provider of on-line databases, with headquarter in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Now it is a ProQuest division, which in its turn is a subsidiary of Cambridge Information Group. The company produces numerous bibliographic databases in various fields of arts and humanities, natural, social and technological sciences.

CSA Sociological Abstracts

It contains summaries of specialized literature worldwide, on all topics related to sociology, of social and behavioral sciences. More specifically, it contains summaries of articles from magazines, books or book chapters, dissertations and papers presented at conferences.

CSA Sociological Abstracts is a database that contains over 1.800 classified publications. It also includes citations and book reviews. The old files have been updated to include the print version of sociological abstracts from 1952-1962. There are links between this database and other databases for social sciences.

The topics covered refer to areas such as culture, social structure, demography, human biology, economical problems, environmental development, family sociology, social protection, health, medicine, law. Also, there are included topics such as development, differentiation, art, business, education, narcotics, addiction, and women studies.

The database is monthly updated with almost 3.000 new entries. At the end of 2011, CSA Sociological Abstracts contained nearly 1 million records.

Directory of Published Proceedings

It dates from 1965, and the world libraries trust this works directory to locate and purchase specialized literature available from thousands of conferences, workshops and symposia.

The above mentioned database helps you look for what you are interested in by using www.InterDok, site hosted by InterDok Corporation.

EBSCO Publishing

It tries to meet the information needs of researchers at every level by providing the latest and best information for researchers. It is recognized and appreciated as important database and electronic book provider for libraries and other institutions. It contains more than 375 full-text databases and secondary research, as well as over 300.000 electronic and audio books available through EBSCOhost platform. It provides unprecedented global access to quality content from all areas, including magazines and articles available through EBSCOhost® and HW Wilson, electronic and audio books, digital archives as well as printed books by Salem printing press group.

Through its database, there are offered daily information that meet the research needs of tens of thousands of customers, representing in the end millions of users per year, from students to public library directors, from academic researchers of medical and social corporations to specialists of the governments worldwide.

EBSCOhost is known as one of the most accessed Internet sites serving more than 100 million page views daily. EBSCOhost supplies also resources such as DynaMed™ an instrument based on scientific reference papers, as well as other clinical evidence, being the reference point of all resources designed to build the workflow for the information used in hospitals and / or other medical institutions.

Corporations and government agencies benefit from the content of EBSCO database, especially in Corporate Learning areas, durability, information regarding chemical hazards, pharmaceuticals etc. EBSCO is also the provider of services designed to allow libraries and other institutions better serve the students and other researchers.

EBSCO Discovery Service™ offers a unique index of an institution's resources, personalized in the search box to allow researchers a quick and easy access to the library's content and also to the full text. Other resources such as LinkSource® and EBSCO A-la-Z®, offer links to libraries and the possibility to organize the e-resources through the OPAC catalogue on EBSCOhost ™ which uses the EBSCO expertise to load and enrich data.

EBSCO MegaFILE

It is an on-line database index that allows the search of articles from each academic and / or general study area. The index is composed of EBSCO Academic Search, EBSCO Business Source Premier and Premier and Regional Business Database.

It provides full access to over 19.100 publications and for about 24.000 – the indexing text and the abstract. It contains over 85.500 biographies, 118.000 documents from primary sources, the evidence of more than 10.000 companies as well as a collection of over 300.000 images, photos, maps and flags.

EMBASE

With over 24 millions indexed entries and over 7.600 indexed magazines, it is an extremely versatile and multifunctional database which covers the most important international specialized literature in the biomedical field from 1947 to present.

All over 5 millions MEDLINE records produced by the National Medicine Library of USA (NML) are included in this database. The main products include the complete indexing of the literature related to drugs and clinical studies with special emphasis on complete indexing of the adverse reactions. Although emphasis is placed on medical studies based on evidences, indexing includes systematic and covering comments relevant for the development and use of the medical devices.

If you are looking for answers to your questions or simply need a reliable peer-review information on topics such as: development or use of medicines, toxicology, safety of medications, side effects, clinical studies, medicine based on evidence, medical devices, preclinical reports, biomedical science or medicines regulations, then this is the database that you are looking for.

Elsevier and Elsevier Bibliographic Database

As worldwide science and health information provider, it serves more than 30 million scientists, students and health professionals with information from all over the world. It provides information and innovative instruments worldwide that helps those interested in taking critical decisions; it increases productivity and improves their results.

It has its headquarters in Amsterdam and has branches on 24 countries with over 7.000 employees. Worldwide it works with over 7.000 magazine editors, 70.000 members of the collective of editors, 300.000 reviewers and 600.000 authors. It is a founding editor of the global programs that offer free access or minimal costs for science and health in developing countries.

It develops online solutions with information that helps professionals obtain better results. It publishes annually about 2.000 journals and almost 20.000 books and major reference works in addition to offering a suite of electronic innovative products and links to latest IDB links such as ScienceDirect, MD Consult, SCOPUS, bibliographic database as well as online reference works.

European Library in Paris (France)

Among the French and most important world's libraries, Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) has a unique role that was shaped by its own history. Owner of the national heritage as legal deposit warehouse of the French publications from different mass-media, BNF has four essential tasks: collecting: to build and increase its collections in all areas; processing knowledge: to describe the shape and content of the documents; preservation: to restore, reproduce and keep the documents; communication and visibility: shows its own collections to the public on its site and organizes cultural programs.

Since 2000 it has been registered a real transformation of its new website, accompanied by restructuring and expanding its mission, especially the expansion of its storage in all new mass-media and online content. The new technologies have also given the library the opportunity to increase cooperation with other French and

foreign libraries as well as with research centers and information by creating and consolidating information networks and renewal of its participation to the national and international projects. Furthermore, digitalization allowed the opportunity to make its collections available to a wider audience and led to the creation and publication online of a growing digital library, Gallica, which currently offers more than 80.000 titles.

GEOBASE

It is a unique database providing multidisciplinary biographic information and abstracts for development studies, earth sciences, ecology, geomechanics, human geography and oceanography. The database offers an actual coverage of almost 2.000 international journals, including both peer – reviewed titles and commercial publications and offers a storage coverage of several thousand additional titles of magazines and books. GEOBASE contains over 1.4 million records from 1980 to the present; with more than 100,000 citations and abstracts added annually (almost 985 of all records are summarized). The database is available electronically or online (including the World Wide Web) or on CD-ROM.

GEOBASE is unequaled in covering the international literature. Documents are selected and classified using a single classification system that is versatile and updated annually to adapt coverage trends of the latest current research. The database includes papers; reviews of trade journals and magazine articles, product reviews, directories and other relevant materials.

It provides comprehensive coverage of basic scientific and technical periodicals. Also GEOBASE has a unique coverage of less accessible publications, including books, conference proceedings and reports published in international languages other than English, making it one of the best resources available for multidisciplinary literature searches of international scientific literature. Its content overcomes linguistic and cultural boundaries of subjects, offering a unique research tool for users.

IET (IEE)

IEE research journals (formerly IEE Proceedings), contain both original and review papers on all subjects in the field of electrical, electronics, computer science, control, biomedical and communications technologies.

It has a dynamic in expanding the journal editing program, increasing to 24 titles in March 2012, with the addition of biometric IEE fields and IEE networks. Famous international journals contain both original works cited by IEE and synthesis of disciplines: electronics, informatics, control, biomedical, communications technology, electrical appliances etc.

INSPEC (see IET, former IEE)

ISI (Institute of Scientific Information) Web of Knowledge

In the list of indexed journals in the Arts Humanities Citation Index are included the following sub-fields: archaeology (44 journals) architecture (22 journals) art (52 journals) dance (5 journals) film, radio, TV (19 journals); folklore (13 journals) Asian studies (34 journals) classical studies (30 journals) cultural studies (6 journals).

Today Romanian Ph.D students must have articles ISI indexed or published in journals and ISI classified. Also, for a university teacher promotion, the candidates must have written studies indexed in ISI classified journals.

Journal Citation Report®/Social Sciences Edition

It provides a systematic, objective way to evaluate critically the most important magazines in the world. The assessment is done with quantifiable information based on citation statistical data. By compiling references of the cited articles, Web JCR helps to measure research influence and the impact of the journal and category.

Journal Citation Report®/Social Sciences Edition is available generally in science and in social science

editions.

JSTOR

It is a digital library, created in 1995 to help academic libraries and publishers to provide access to higher levels of knowledge. JSTOR's goal is to expand access to scientific content worldwide.

It provides under certain conditions, free access to a part or to all the content of the database contained. It includes references from about 2,000 journals, including monographs and other important scientific sources of knowledge (about 50 million pages, plus about 3 million pages added per year).

The Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog (KVK)

It is a meta search interface which allows access through Internet to libraries and commercial catalogs online. It performs a search with a meta interface for more than 500 millions of books and serials from libraries and commercial catalogues worldwide.

It starts a simultaneous search in multiple catalogs and provides a list of standardized results. As an independent catalogue, it does not have its own database, depending on the availability of the search systems.

MathSciNet®

It is an electronic system that provides access to a publishing database carefully maintained and easily searchable for reviews, abstracts and bibliographic information on much of the mathematical literature. Over 100,000 new items are added each year, most of them classified according to the Mathematics Subject Classification. Authors are uniquely identified and MathSciNet® database allows searching for publications with individual author rather than a string of names.

The Mathematical Reviews (MR) tradition of paper publications continues today, which at first was published in 1940 and the expert reviewers were selected by professional mathematicians to write reviews for the specialized articles published. Over 40,000 titles and new names are added to the database annually.

MathSciNet® contains over 2 million items and over 1 million direct links to original articles. Bibliographic data of some items from the early 1800s reference lists are collected and adapted internally from approximately 450 magazines with mainly mathematical topic, being provided citation data for journals, authors, articles and reviews. The web site also allows users to track the history and influence of research publications in the mathematical sciences.

Science Reference Center

It is a comprehensive research database that provides easy access to a variety of texts, being mainly oriented to their content. Designed to meet the needs of each student's scientific research, Science Reference Center contains the full text extracted from hundreds of science encyclopedias, reference books, periodicals and other sources. The Topics covered include biology, chemistry, earth and space science, environmental science, health and medicine, history of science, life science, physics, science and society, science as inquiry, scientists, technology and wildlife.

SCOPUS

It is considered to be the largest database of abstracts and citations of peer-reviewed articles of the specialized literature and web sources, realized with quality instruments to track, analyze and view works in many areas of basic and advanced scientific research.

It is designed and developed with the help of tens of thousands of users worldwide. Updated daily, the database includes abstracts and references of 15,000 peer-reviewed journals, belonging to a total of about 4,000 international publishers, ensuring a wide interdisciplinary coverage. It also offers the connection to full text articles and other library resources and integrates also web searches patents.

Features such as Author Identifier and Citations Tracking set a reference point for an efficient search and citation tracking. Both features enhance the ability for users to search for all relevant publications of articles on the theme they want. Also, this database also includes the option h index (Hirsch index) for tracking and interpretation of the researchers' performance.

BDI Scopus offers access to PatentCites to track the way in which primary research is practically applied in patents and WebCites to track its influence in the web specialized literature and in the RSS and HTML fluxes, updated by the appearance of new articles that match search queries.

Scopus represents a complete package of services, easy to install and personalize and includes an information site, direct assistance with e-assistance and a wide range warranties for each institution that has the access provided for a fee.

Social Sciences Citation Index®

Accessible through Web of Science® it offers researchers, administrators, teachers and students access to bibliographic and citation data they need in order to find research data, analysis, trends, journals and researches focused on a particular purpose.

It focuses on the most important data from the most important over 2.500 social science journals in the world, which it classifies and that belong to a number on not less than 50 scientific disciplines quantified via this database.

Social Scisearch

It is an international multidisciplinary literature index contained in social, behavioral and connected sciences, produced by ISI Thomson Web of Knowledge. It contains all the records published in Citation Index Social Sciences and offers some unique techniques of information retrieval.

Moreover, compared to the most conventional methods, it offers the indexing of citations, which enables the search for quoted references. It does searches for keywords, author and PlusTM ONTAP.

Social SciSearch® is available for online training and practice. This sub-base database contains over 50,000 records.

Social Science Research Network (SSRN)

It is dedicated to rapid global dissemination of research in social sciences, being composed of a number of specialized research networks in each of the social sciences.

ELibrary SSRN consists of two parts: a) a database containing abstracts of about 400,000 scientific papers and documents; b) an Electronic Paper collection of documents whose text can be downloaded with full rights in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. ELibrary includes also research papers from several series of publications based on access fees.

Ulrich

It is a database of bibliographic and publisher information, which contains more than 300,000 periodicals of all times, academic and scientific journals, open access publications, popular magazines, newspapers, newsletters and many more from all over the world.

The access covers all subjects and includes publications with periodic appearance, regular or irregular, distributed for free or based on a paid subscription.

WorldCat (see separate text)

WSEAS E-Library

Through this database you can explore previous works from WSEAS conferences since 1999. You can download useful databases containing document titles, authors, keywords, abstracts (for works indexed since June 2002).

WSEAS translated (Scientific World Academy for Engineering and Society) is a non-profit academy of the engineering – scientific world that promotes the development and the unified consideration of new mathematical methods and computational techniques and their applications in science, engineering and society.

WSEAS supports research and distribution of scientific and engineering knowledge, especially in mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, as well as their interaction with other sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, engineering, earth sciences, space sciences, social sciences, etc.).

Zentralblatt (ZBMATH)

It contains entries from about 4,500 journals and 1,500 print journals from 1826 to the present. It is edited by the European Mathematical Society, FIZ Karlsruhe, Heidelberger together with Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Zentralblatt MATH is produced by FIZ Karlsruhe editorial office in Berlin, in collaboration with the European academies and institutes of mathematics in most countries of the planet. In 2011 it contained over 3.2 million indexed items and about 6,500 active reviewers.

3. Limits of the databases and conclusions

It is easy to understand that any database cannot be complete, because it will only contain the information that is entered in that particular database. In the process of globalization it is impossible to have a IDB which contains all the scientific information which they proposed to contain (mainly because no national databases, upon which IDB is built is not complete, then because the new elements of knowledge must be continually added to the IDB). Not even now, although I cannot blame the oppressions of the Communist systems, the libraries from Eastern Europe, and also those from the so-called geopolitical region Eurasia, are not well represented in the WorldCat[‡] system.

The multitude of national and international databases for natural sciences or for socio-human sciences demonstrate us, if necessary, their imperfections both in terms of coverage – all databases are only partial and subjective, depending on the criteria on which the selection was made, and on the accurate selection of the works contained – the selection is made by software, also incomplete (for ex. no computer program selects between one or more last names of the author or one or more of his father's initials, or junior or senior, cases in which the selection has to be made by those concerned – only they know what and when they published). And, if these limits exist, the use of the database can be questioned.

We believe that in the boundless and unfettered globalization process, humanity and scientists will discover and apply other systems of quantification of the results of their scientific labor. The current systems, of which only a small part referring to the IDB are described in this study, will soon be outdated by the impetuous boom of the spiritual knowledge which mankind barely faces nowadays.

Acknowledgements

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