



## World Development Indicators Online: How to Search It

Barbara Costello  
June 2005, rev. May 2007,  
August 2009

### I. World Development Indicators: Getting to It on the Web

**NOTE:** You must be connected to Stetson's Network in order to access any of the Library's subscription databases. If you are not working from a campus-connected computer, you will have to enter the network through a proxy server. See Instructions for Library Access from Off Campus: <http://stetson.edu/library/offcampus.php>.

**World Development Indicators (WDI) Online** is a database containing detailed demographic and statistical data on over 800 topics/series for 209 countries and 18 geographic regions/groups from 1960 to 2008, where data are available. The amount of data varies greatly from country to country, and may not be available for all years. *WDI Online* is produced by the World Bank Group.

Go to the Library's **Databases** page at: <http://www.stetson.edu/library/databases.php>.

In the alphabetical list of all databases (right side of page), scroll down to, then click on **World Development Indicators**. This will bring you to the search screen.

### II. Searching: Select Variables

To complete a search, you must make selections within three variables: country/group, series, and years. Each is represented by a tab at the top of the screen. You must choose at least one item from each tab.

#### A. Selecting Countries

From the alphabetical list of **Available Countries**, choose a country or countries by highlighting the name(s) and then clicking on **Select** to drop them into the selection window. Geographic regions and special groups (Aggregates) are listed in the left column. Expand the "+" in front of the regional names; the special groups available in that region will

be listed, and countries in that region will appear in the “Available” window. You would then select them in the same way.

To highlight consecutive country names, hold down the “Shift” key while highlighting and clicking; to highlight non-consecutive names, hold down the “Control key.” When selecting all countries shown in the “Available” window, you only have to click on the **Select All** button once to drop all of them into the selection window.

To choose the next variable, either click on “Next” on the screen, or click on the **Series** tab at the top of the screen.

### **B. Selecting Series**

Under the **Series** tab, choose the series from the Alphabetical list in the “Available” window by highlighting the item(s) that you want and then clicking on **Select** to drop them into the selection window below. Once again, to highlight consecutive items, hold down the “Shift” key; for non-consecutive items, hold down the “Control” key.

You may also select series within a broad category hierarchy, such as Environment or Trade, from the “**List**” on the left of the screen. Each category is broken down into smaller subcategories. Each time you choose a category or subcategory, a list of available tables will appear in the “Available” box. You can also search for series on specific topics by typing your keyword into the box and clicking on “**Search**.” Any series with that keyword in the title will be listed for you to select. You can then move them to the “Selected” window by highlighting and clicking on select.

To choose the next variable, either click on “Next” on the screen, or click on the **Time** tab at the top of the screen.

### **C. Selecting Years**

In the “Available” window, choose the years by highlighting the years that you want and then clicking on **Select** to drop them into the selection window. Choose consecutive years by holding the “Shift” key while highlighting; choose non-consecutive years by holding the “Control” key while highlighting.

When you have finished entering the search criteria, click on “**Next**” to see the results of your search.

## **III. Viewing, Exporting, and Printing Search Results**

### **A. Viewing Search Results**

Under the **Show Report** tab, there are three options:

**Report** – presents data in a table. The user can set their own row and column variables by using the drop-down lists. Report results can be exported to either Excel or CSV by choosing from the drop-down list under “Export.”

**Please Note:** On the results screen you will see only two of the variables you selected, and the third will be changeable from a drop-down list. For example, the table will only show the series and the year(s) and the country will change from a drop-down list. **Only by exporting your results will you be able to see a single table with multiple variables.**

**Chart** – charts the results. Once again, the user selects the type of chart from the drop-down list and only two of the variables appear in the chart. The third must be changed in a drop-down list.

**Map** – Maps the results. The user can use the zoom feature to change the scale of the map.

## **B. Exporting Search Results**

On the **Report** results screen, there is a drop-down list under “**Export.**” You may choose to save your results as an **Excel** or a **CSV** file.

If you choose Excel, you can either directly view the data in an Excel spreadsheet or save it to a file in Excel.

You may view or save your data as a CSV file, too.

## **C. Printing Search Results**

Printing from the View Results screen will not produce a clean copy. The best alternative is to print the data as an Excel spreadsheet.

# **IV. Citing Sources**

**Consult the following links for guidance on how to cite references and avoid plagiarism:**

Citation Guides/Style Manuals:

[http://www2.stetson.edu/library/standard\\_stylemanuals.php](http://www2.stetson.edu/library/standard_stylemanuals.php)

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

[http://www2.stetson.edu/library/standard\\_plagiarism.php](http://www2.stetson.edu/library/standard_plagiarism.php)