

What is RePEc?

RePEc:

Research Papers in Economics (<http://repec.org>) is a volunteer driven initiative to create a public access database that promotes scholarly communication in economics and related disciplines. The database contains information on over:

- 4,000 individual professionals (their contact information and associated publications)
- 6,000 institutions (economics departments, research institutes, and governmental organizations)
- bibliographic information on 100,000 working papers published by institutions and individuals
- bibliographic citations for 55,000 articles from the leading journals in the discipline
- 800 software descriptions and programs

of which more than 70,000 items are available on line.

How can you participate in RePEc?

RePEc is a decentralized network of departmental archives; we do not support personal archives. If your department or research center does not place its research papers in RePEc, we would encourage you to ask those in charge of maintaining those web pages in your organization to join RePEc. Detailed instructions are available at IDEAS (<http://ideas.repec.org>). If you are unsure as to whether your institution participates, please consult the list of RePEc archives on IDEAS, or find the institution's listing in EDIRC (<http://edirc.repec.org>).

If you have personal materials that are not included in any departmental series, please consider submitting them to EconWPA (<http://econwpa.repec.org>). This brings all the benefits of RePEc: your materials will be found by any search of RePEc for a given keyword, topic, or name, and you may identify these materials when you register at the RePEc Author Service (<http://authors.repec.org>) to produce your personalized "RePEc CV".

For more information

Please visit the website

<http://repec.org>

or email

repec@repec.org

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2002

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RePEc's capabilities are unique in this regard: the RePEc database links information on the published and unpublished works of thousands of economists. RePEc promotes scholarly communication by providing a database that welcomes all providers of unpublished materials (working papers, discussion papers, research reports, conference papers) and publishers of journals (including scholarly societies, commercial and non-commercial publishers) to place their bibliographic information in the public domain. Individual economists are invited to identify the documents they have authored in the database.

Availability of information through RePEc services

The data in the RePEc database are accessible from web-based RePEc services such as IDEAS (<http://ideas.repec.org>), EconPapers (<http://econpapers.repec.org>), NetEc, and Inomics. They are also used in the NEP (New Economics Papers, <http://nep.repec.org>) service that provides subject-specific current awareness email lists. Any individual may freely subscribe to these awareness lists. Individuals may register with RePEc (<http://authors.repec.org>). By registering, and claiming documents which they authored, a personal "RePEc CV" is automatically created with links to (and from) their documents, both published and unpublished. The LogEc logging service (<http://logec.repec.org>) accounts for most usage of RePEc data on a per-item basis. These data are then used to generate access statistics for authors, papers and institutional providers. The emerging CitEc Project provides automated citation analysis from full-text documents accessible from RePEc. It will eventually provide a full click-through citation index. Finally, RePEc collaborates with similar projects through the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), such as the University of California Digital Library, to disseminate publications in economics and related disciplines to the larger community of scholars.

RePEc information is freely available

The RePEc database is public access: it may be used without charge as long as the origin of the data is acknowledged. All RePEc data are freely accessible and may be republished for noncommercial purposes, but may not be sold. The RePEc Project does not publish the data itself. It is made available to RePEc services, who may present the data, provide search features, etc. as they wish. Different users will have different preferences and hence there are many services, each providing users with their unique presentation. Contributing to RePEc assures the widest possible circulation: a scope that no proprietary system, or single publisher's site, can provide.

RePEc's non-commercial status

The RePEc Project is volunteer-driven, inspired by the Open Source software movement. The project is managed by a multinational group of academic economists, librarians, and computer specialists. The RePEc group offers technical and organizational expertise in running web-based scholarly communication services. RePEc has received modest support for infrastructure projects. It cooperates closely with a number of publishers, but the project is entirely independent of commercial interests.

Basic concept of the RePEc metadatabase

Unlike initiatives in some disciplines, RePEc is a decentralized archive. Each institution (department, research institute, central bank, etc.) maintains their own archive of bibliographic text files describing each item they wish to publish in RePEc. Many times the text files are straightforward reformulations of the material already presented on the institution's web pages. The institutional contributor has complete control over the materials; changes made to archives are automatically reflected in RePEc services' display without the need for manual intervention. At this point in time, over 240 RePEc archives contribute to the database of over 100,000 working papers and 55,000 journal articles.

Major RePEc participants include

Economics departments of many "top 50" US programs and leading universities worldwide

Research institutes: NBER, CEPR, IMF, World Bank, IFS, Federal Reserve System, ECB, Bank of England.

Major publishers, including AEA, Econometric Society, Royal Economic Society, Cambridge, Oxford, Chicago, MIT, Springer, Kluwer.

A majority of the "top 300" economists on Tom Coupé's list.