WRDS at Cambridge

An overview of usage 31 July 2021 – 1 August 2022

Introduction

This year, we will be reporting in a different way as the stats package from WRDS has been updated.

The Information & Library Services team at Cambridge Judge Business School manage access to WRDS on behalf of the University of Cambridge. Staff set up and maintain 136 accounts and offer support and practical expertise to users.

As well as funding key datasets, CERF support pays for the WRDS base subscription: the key software that allows all other datasets to run. The ILS team at CJBS have been regularly adding to this with subscriptions both big and small but without the WRDS subscription it would be impossible to fund small subscriptions that (around £5000 each) are essential for a Faculty research project or a PhD candidate’s research. In the next year, the University Library will be buying a handful of WRDS products to run on this subscription, adding further value to the project. Currently, we have 121 individual datasets running on WRDS.

On behalf of the students, researchers, faculty, and staff of the University of Cambridge I’d like to again offer our thanks to CERF for their continued support and funding for these specialist financial datasets available through the WRDS platform.

Ange Fitzpatrick
Head Librarian
4 October 2022
Our users

We currently support accounts for 136 users, including class accounts for Masters programmes. 65% of accounts are for Faculty and PhD Researchers.

Active/Open User Types Breakdown

- Faculty: 32.6%
- Ph.D.: 34.9%
- Shared Account for Class (Faculty registration only): 16.3%
- Staff: 13.2%
- Students (Masters / Undergrad): 2.3%
- Visiting Faculty: 0%
- Research Assistant (Supervised students only): 0.77%

Account Type
- Faculty: 46
- Ph.D.: 43
- Research Assistant (Supervised students only): 1
- Shared Account for Class (Faculty registration only): 22
- Staff: 18
- Students (Masters / Undergrad): 4
- Visiting Faculty: 2

Our WRDS subscription supports research across a range of University faculties and departments. We have a strong presence in Business, Economics and Land Economy, but we
also support researchers working in fields as diverse as Astronomy, Mathematics, and Politics. Conversations with these students reveal that WRDS data has been used for deciding if University innovations can succeed in the market, and as raw data to test conceptual models and prototypes.

WRDS offers access to complex, historical, financial data that is often exhaustive in its coverage and cannot be found elsewhere. The data is aimed at postgraduate-level study and above.

*Changes to WRDS data collection mean we are unable to list the number of individual accounts, but we can still report where in the University the requests come from.*

Individual faculty accounts cover the following departments and organisations:

**Individual faculty accounts**

**Non-CJBS**

- Economics
- Engineering
- Centre for Business Research
- CERF
- Politics and International Studies
- Colleges
- Biochemistry
- CEAM
- Land Economy
- Law
- Physiology
- Sociology

PhD accounts cover the following faculties and departments:

**Non-CJBS**

- Economics
- Engineering
- Chemistry
- Land Economy
- Sociology
- Biochemistry
- Cancer Research
- Chemical Engineering
- Development Studies
- Earth Sciences
- Law
- Medical Research
- Physics
- Physiology
• Social Anthropology
• Zoology

Class accounts
WRDS class accounts support teaching and research across the following courses:

At Cambridge Judge Business School:
• MBA
• EMBA
• MFin
• MPhil in Finance & SMO; Innovation, Strategy and Organization; Technology Policy; and Management
• MSt Social Innovation
• MSt Entrepreneurship
• MAcc
• MST

Across the wider University:
• MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development (Engineering)
• MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise (Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology)
• MPhil in Economics (Economics)
• MPhil in Real Estate Finance, Environmental Policy, and Planning, Growth and Regeneration (Land Economy)
• Institute for Manufacturing courses
• Economics undergraduates
• MSt Sustainability Leadership
• Land Economy undergraduates
• MPhil Sociology
• Institute of Continuing Education
• History undergraduates
Data usage

The WRDS platform can be accessed through its website [https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu](https://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu) or through a SSH client. The majority of users access the datasets through a browser.

Last year saw a return to more normal usage after the bumper usage we saw in 2020-2021 (a 329% increase). In total, 4,461 queries were run and 3145.65GB of data downloaded.
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<td>Compustat</td>
<td>924 (461 plus 459)</td>
<td>635 (518 plus 117)</td>
<td>1,007 (916 plus 974)</td>
<td>1,007 (916 plus 974)</td>
<td>1,786 (717 plus 1,069)</td>
<td>1,786 (717 plus 1,069)</td>
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**CERF funded data sets**

- **Compustat**
  - 2014-15 (web plus SSH): 924 (461 plus 459)
  - 2015-16 (web plus SSH): 635 (518 plus 117)
  - 2016-17 (web plus SSH): 1,007 (916 plus 974)
  - 2017-18 (web plus SSH): 1,007 (916 plus 974)
  - 2018-19 (web plus SSH): 1,786 (717 plus 1,069)
  - 2019-20 (web plus SSH): 1,786 (717 plus 1,069)
  - 2020-21 (web plus SSH): 1,786 (717 plus 1,069)
  - 2021-2022 (web plus SSH): 1,786 (717 plus 1,069)
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CRSP</th>
<th>ISS (Risk Metrics)</th>
<th>Eventus</th>
<th>IBES</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tr>
<td>CRSP</td>
<td>18434 (305 plus 18123)</td>
<td>472 (332 plus 140)</td>
<td>212 (28 plus 184)</td>
<td>193 (193 web)</td>
<td>20103</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1325 (371 plus 954)</td>
<td>13 (13 plus 1)</td>
<td>16 (13 plus 13)</td>
<td>5 (5 plus 0)</td>
<td>1271</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>534 (420 plus 114)</td>
<td>34 (34 plus 0)</td>
<td>34 (543 plus 0)</td>
<td>543 (543 plus 0)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>726 (673 plus 53)</td>
<td>44 (44 plus 0)</td>
<td>80 (80 plus 0)</td>
<td>543 (543 plus 0)</td>
<td>1679</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1470 (695 plus 775)</td>
<td>17 (17 plus 0)</td>
<td>45 (45 plus 0)</td>
<td>80 (80 plus 0)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4,763 (1,097 plus 3,666)</td>
<td>31 (21 plus 10)</td>
<td>381 (381 plus 0)</td>
<td>140 (124 plus 16)</td>
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<td>ISS (Risk Metrics)</td>
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**Top users**

The change in the WRDS stats package no longer allows us to see as much information about the queries run by our users and in some cases, particularly with heavy users, the information is truncated.

The users who ran the most queries this year are:

1. Faculty member in Engineering
2. CERF researcher
3. MPhil in Economics (Department of Economics)
4. MPhil in Real Estate Finance (Department of Land Economy)
5. PhD student Engineering