

WRDS usage: 2017-2018

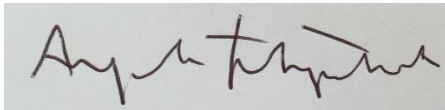
## Introduction

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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.

Users of WRDS represent a complex Cambridge community.

Our Faculty and PhD accounts show an appetite for detailed financial data, directing their company, industry or macroeconomic research. Others utilise the many data points available across these datasets to test complex algorithms in disciplines outside the usual market of Economics and Finance students. Access to these datasets is provided by the Information & Library Services team at Judge Business School. The partnership of CERF's funding of these datasets, and the I&LS team's practical expertise mean we are able to offer access to more students, researchers and classes than ever before

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Ange Fitzpatrick'.

Ange Fitzpatrick

Information & Library Services Manager, Cambridge Judge Business School

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## 2017-18 initiatives

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The CJBS continue to work closely with colleagues at the Faculty of Economics and Land Economy to promote WRDS use. WRDS is now used on taught and research courses at both these departments.

CJBS has purchased additional datasets accessed through WRDS. These are specialist products aimed at Faculty and post-doc researchers but open to all. There are plans to offer access to two more products this year with access to some of our most popular databases like Capital IQ and SNL through the platform as they become available.

## Highlights since Michaelmas 2017

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- **1126** unique data queries run
- Increased use of WRDS specialist help guides. 56 guides were downloaded in total.
- Overall web usage by session was stable
- Continued heavy data use from **Land Economy**: a single Fellow student accessed **over 16 million** points of data
- WRDS used by College researchers for the first time

## Who are our users?

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The Information & Library Services Team at Cambridge Judge Business School administer the WRDS data interface and the datasets contained therein on behalf of the University of Cambridge. WRDS data is available for academics and PhD students through individual accounts, and to taught and research MPhil students as part of 'class accounts'. These class accounts offer an easy way for researchers at the beginning of their academic career to access complex financial data and offer an opportunity for course leaders to include and place a strong emphasis on sophisticated interrogation of real data as part of their teaching and assessment.

We currently have **129 active users** of the WRDS platform, mostly registered to either University faculty or PhD students.

2017-18

129 active accounts: (with 69% of accounts being registered to either University faculty or PhD students).

19 class accounts (10 CJBS and 9 non-CJBS)

46 faculty (14 CJBS and 32 non-CJBS)

43 PhD (8 CJBS and 35 non-CJBS)

15 staff

4 visitor

2 research assistants

2016-17

121 active accounts: (with 72% of accounts being registered to either University faculty or PhD students).

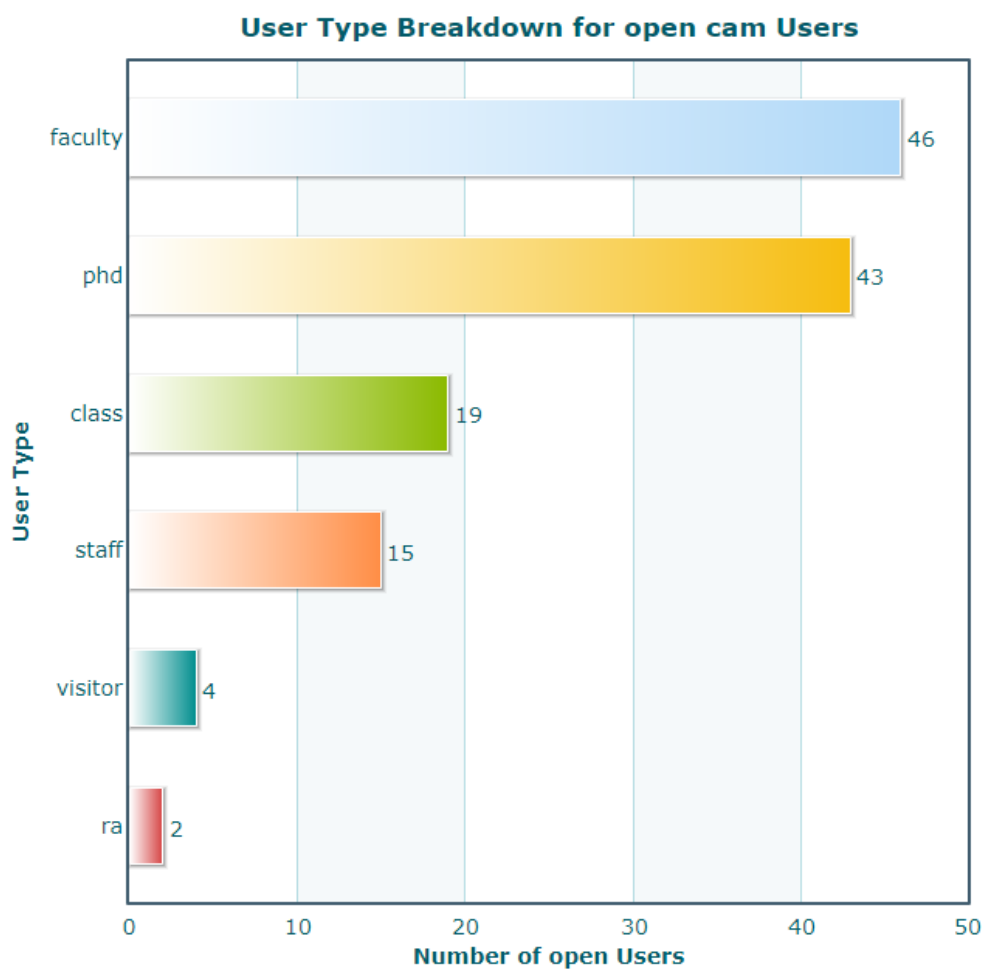
15 class accounts (8 CJBS & 7 Non-CJBS)

44 faculty (13 CJBS and 31 non-CJBS)

43 PhD (8 CJBS and 35 non-CJBS)

15 staff

4 visitor



*All data unless otherwise attributed comes from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*

## Individual accounts

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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.

Individual faculty accounts cover the following departments and organisations

Individual faculty accounts - 46

CJBS -14 – 8% increase since 2017

### **Non-CJBS - 32 including: 3% increase**

- Economics 12
- Centre for Business Research 5
- Engineering 2
- Land Economy 2
- Centre for Risk Studies 2
- CERF
- Entrepreneurship Centre
- EPRG
- Law
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Colleges

Active PhD accounts (43) cover the following faculties and departments:

CJBS- 8

### **Non-CJBS- 35 Including:**

- Economics 15
- Engineering 6
- Sociology 3
- Physics 2
- Land Economy
- Education
- History
- Development Studies
- Computer Science

- Medicine
- Physiology
- Astronomy

#### Class accounts

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

#### **At Cambridge Judge Business School: 10**

- MBA
- EMBA
- MFin
- MPhils in Finance & SMO; Innovation, Strategy and Organization; Technology Policy; and Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship
- MSt Social Innovation
- MSt Entrepreneurship

#### **Across the wider University: 9**

- MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development (Engineering)
- MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise (Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology)
- MPhil in Economics (Economics)
- MPhils 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

#### **Class Account usage:**

New this year are class accounts used for teaching and research for MPhil students in Sociology and undergraduate courses in Land Economy. We continue to support a wide range of researchers from across the University, 89% of usage is from those outside the Business School.

As in recent years, the MPhil in Economics class account is the most widely used. Data from this account forms the basis of a research project undertaken by students.

#### **Class Account usage:**

2017-2018

805 sessions – 34% decrease, **89% from non-CJBS accounts**, most logins from MPhil Economics students

CJBS MPhil Finance class account – used 59 times (all CJBS class accounts total sessions – 87)

MFin – 8

MBA – 7

EMBA – 7

MSt Social Innovation - 6

Non-CJBS class accounts total sessions – 718

MPhil Economics – 269

Undergraduates Economics – 215

MPhil Land Economy – 174

Bioscience - 40

MPhil Sociology – 16

Undergraduates Land Economy – 3

MET Engineering - 1

### **Class Account usage:**

#### 2016-2017

1217 sessions – 273% increase, **98% from non-CJBS accounts**, most logins from Undergraduates Economics

MBA class account – used 25 times (all CJBS class accounts total sessions – 30)

MPhil Finance – 4

MFin – 1

Non-CJBS class accounts total sessions – 1187

Undergraduates Economics – 1007

MPhil Economics – 162

Land Economy – 12

Bioscience - 6

## How is the WRDS platform used?

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

Usage data for those using the WRDS website is much more detailed than those accessing via SSH connection. The website data is described in detail below, but for a complete picture the raw query counts (including SSH queries) are as follows:

	2014-15 (web plus SSH)	2015-16 (web plus SSH)	2016-17 (web plus SSH)	2017-18 (web plus SSH)
<b>Compustat</b>	924 (461 plus 459)	635 (518 plus 117)	1626 (1379 plus 247)	939 (848 plus 91)
<b>CRSP</b>	18434 (305 plus 18123)	472 (332 plus 140)	1325 (371 plus 954)	534 (420 plus 114)
<b>ISS (Risk Metrics)</b>	212 (28 plus 184)	19 (11 plus 8)	26 (13 plus 13)	34 (34 plus 0)
<b>Eventus</b>	193 (193 web)	5 (5 plus 0)	543 (543 plus 0)	80 (80 plus 0)
<b>IBES</b>	340 (95 plus 245)	140 (124 plus 16)	700 (399 plus 301)	92 (90 plus 2)
<b>Totals</b>	20103	1271	4220	1679

**Total number of WRDS queries in 2017-18: 2346** (1920 web plus 426 (or 272) SSH)

7 SSH users:

CCFin/CERF researcher - 259 queries

CJBS MPhil Finance class - 72 queries

MPhil Economics class – 70 queries

CJBS faculty member

CCFin/CERF researcher

CERF researcher

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<sup>1</sup> CERF currently fund access to the WRDS platform itself (including SSH access) and the datasets: Compustat, CRSP and Eventus. We have included other popular datasets accessed through the WRDS platform to give a more complete picture of its use.



Robinson college researcher

**Total number of WRDS queries in 2016-17: 4746** (2804 web plus 1942 (or 746) SSH)

5 SSH users:

CJBS faculty member- 296 queries

CJBS faculty member - 246 queries

CERF researcher – 185 queries

PhD Economics student

CERF researcher

Looking back through the past four years, it is easy to see that usage is occasionally spiked by a particularly enthusiastic researcher relying on this data for a project or thesis. Although use has not been as high this year as last, we're pleased with the wider use across the Cambridge community.

The last academic year saw the Information & Library Services team add to the WRDS portfolio by buying a selection of specialist datasets aimed at Faculty use. These datasets run on the WRDS base platform paid for by CERF and would not be accessible without your backing. These datasets are available to all University members.

2017-18 New datasets – 221 queries total:

Mergent FISD – 53 queries

IvyDB US by OptionMetrics – 85

MSCI GMI Ratings CEOs; Companies; Directorships; Takeover - 34

IvyDB Europe by OptionMetrics – 31

Markit Credit Default Swap – 18

WRDS web platform usage:

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2017-18 Total number of queries: 1920

Biggest users:

MPhil Economics class (269)

Undergraduates Economics class (215)

MPhil Land Economy class (174)

CCAF researcher (144)

Robinson College researcher (132)

CJBS PhD student (113)

Engineering PhD student (98)

CJBS PhD student (75)

EPRG researcher (70)

2016-17 Total number of queries: 2804

Largest users

- Engineering Faculty member (1124)
- Undergraduates Economics class (1007)
- MPhil Economics class (162)
- Economics PhD student (72)
- Economics PhD student (53)

Dataset breakdown (web platform):

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Compustat – 848 queries – decrease of 39%

CJBS – 90

Non-CJBS - 758

Users: 35 (CJBS - 11, Non-CJBS – 24)

Biggest users:

- MPhil Economics class (113)
- CCAF researcher (105)
- Engineering PhD student (98)
- Undergraduates Economics class (92)
- Engineering faculty member (44)
- CJBS MPhil Finance class (43)
- EPRG researcher (43)
- Entrepreneurship Centre researcher (39)

Dataset breakdown (web platform):

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Compustat – 1379 queries – increase of 166%

CJBS – 35

Non-CJBS - 1344

Users: 29 (CJBS - 10, Non-CJBS – 19)

Biggest users:

- Engineering Faculty member (1113)
- Economics PhD student (53)
- MPhil Economics class (46)

CRSP – 420 queries – increase of 13%

CJBS – 19

Non-CJBS – 401

Users: 24 (CJBS – 6, Non-CJBS – 18)

Biggest users:

- MPhil Economics class (111)
- Undergraduates Economics class (88)
- MPhil Land Economy class (47)
- Economics PhD student (38)

CRSP – 371 queries – increase of 12%

CJBS – 58

Non- CJBS – 313

Users: 22 (CJBS – 8, Non-CJBS – 14)

Biggest users:

- MPhil Economics class (103)
- Economics PhD student (71)

ISS (Risk Metrics) – 34 queries - increase of 162%

CJBS - 28

Non-CJBS - 6

ISS (Risk Metrics) – 13 queries -increase of 19%

CJBS -9

Non-CJBS -4

Eventus – 80 queries - decrease of 85%

CJBS – 70

Non-CJBS - 10

Biggest user:

- CJBS PhD student (70)

Eventus – 543 queries – increase of 10760%

CJBS – 1

Non-CJBS -542

Biggest users:

- Undergraduates Economics class (542)

IBES – 90 queries – decrease of 77%

CJBS – 7

Non-CJBS - 83

IBES – 399 queries – increase of 222%

CJBS – 9

Non-CJBS - 390

Biggest users:

- Undergraduates Economics class (384)