

WRDS usage: a report for CERF

Highlights

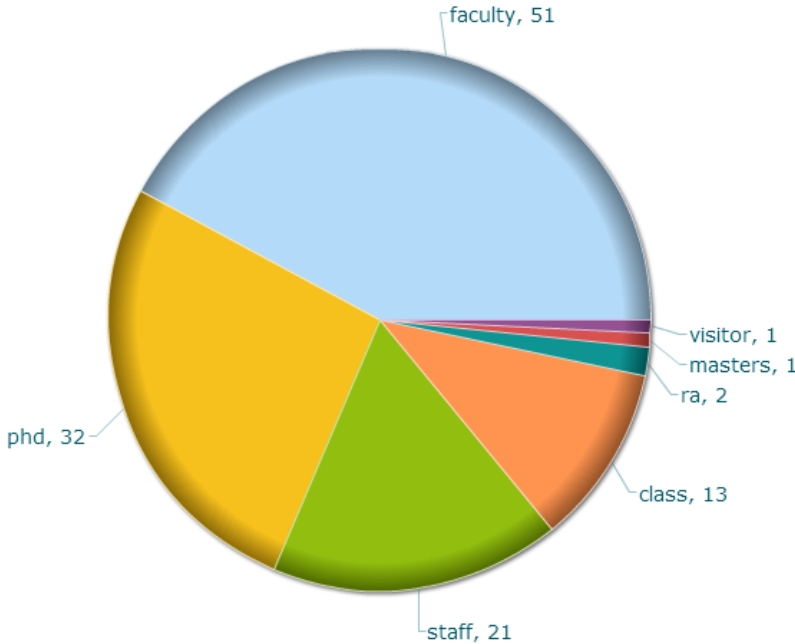
- Overall usage up **172%**
- Total data downloaded up from 51.9GB to 122.6GB
- Heavy use of datasets for two years running from Engineering students and researchers
- **500%** increase in CRSP data usage
- MPhil in Economics class usage up **257%**
- **329%** increase in Eventus use

Who are our users?

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 **121 active users** of the WRDS platform, with 69% of accounts being registered to either University faculty or PhD students.

User Type Breakdown for open cam Users



Individual accounts

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 Law, Mathematics, and Medicine. 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

CJBS- 19

Non-CJBS- 27:

- Land Economy 9
- Economics 6
- Centre for Business Research 4
- Engineering 2
- CPSL 1
- Law 1
- Sociology 1
- Genetics 1
- Mathematics 1
- CERF 1

Active PhD accounts cover the following faculties and departments:

CJBS- 5

Non-CJBS- 25:

- Economics 8
- Engineering 7
- Land Economy 5
- Development Studies 2
- Chemical Engineering 1
- Astronomy 1
- Clinical Medicine 1

Class accounts

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

At Cambridge Judge Business School:

- MBA¹
- EMBA
- MFin
- MPhils in Finance; Innovation, Strategy and Organization; Technology Policy; and Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship

Across the wider University:

- 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)

Class Account usage:

2013-2014

868 sessions, 70% from non-CJBS accounts, most logins from MPhil in Real Estate Finance (Land Economy)

2014-2015

311 sessions, **93% from non-CJBS accounts**, most logins from MPhil in Economics

Fewer sessions in the last fiscal year, but an increase in University-wide usage.

The session count for the MPhil in Economics course saw a **257% increase** in usage between 2013-14 and 2014-2015.

¹ Even though class accounts are created for all courses offered at Cambridge Judge Business School, these are seldom used. In 2013-14 the **MBA class account** was used 4 times, in 2014-15 the **account was unused**.

How is the WRDS platform used?

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:

	2013-14	2014-15
Compustat	3598	924
CRSP	3046	18434
ISS (Risk Metrics)	548	212
Eventus	45	193
IBES	153	340
Totals	7390	20103

CRSP, Eventus and IBES all see increases, and have been used by a broader range of students in the last year.

The raw figures have been skewed by two industrious individual researchers:

- Engineering Faculty member B³ who accounts for 68% of the 2013-14 Compustat usage
- A CJBS PhD student who accounts for 85% of 2013-14 ISS usage; without him **ISS usage is actually up**

WRDS web platform usage:

Our overall biggest users of the WRDS web platform are

- MPhil Economics class (268)
- CJBS PhD student M* (225)
- CJBS PhD student F* (186)
- Land Economy PhD student (152)
- Engineering Faculty member (97)

² 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.

³ Detailed user data has been kept anonymous, users will only be referred to by their department, study level and an alphabetical identifier.

Dataset breakdown (web platform):

Compustat – 461 queries

CJBS – 162

Non- CJBS - 304

Users: 22 (CJBS - 11, Non-CJBS – 11)

Biggest users:

- Engineering Faculty member B (97) – Researcher at Engineering
- MPhil Economics class (79)

CRSP – 305 queries

CJBS – 66

Non- CJBS – 229

Users: 16 (CJBS – 8, Non-CJBS – 8)

Biggest users:

- Land Economy PhD student (100)

Eventus – 193 queries

CJBS – 80

Non- CJBS – 113

Users: 3 (CJBS – 2, Non-CJBS – 1)

Biggest users:

- MPhil in Economics (113)

ISS (Risk Metrics) – 28 queries

CJBS – 23

Non- CJBS - 6

Users: 6 (CJBS - 3, Non-CJBS- 3)

Biggest user:

- CJBS PhD student M (20)

IBES – 95 queries

CJBS – 38

Non- CJBS - 57

Users: 14 (CJBS – 9, Non-CJBS – 5)

Biggest users:

- MPhil Real Estate Finance (13)
- CJBS PhD student K (13)
- MPhil Economics class (12)

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August 2015