

Collection profile of the ZBW

ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

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Preliminary remark

This collection profile defines the criteria according to which the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics collects economic information and makes it available via its own search portal EconBiz and external information services [1].

1. Tasks and collection area

As the *central specialist library for economics*, the ZBW has the task of procuring, indexing and archiving theoretical and empirical literature from the fields of economics and business administration worldwide in a demand-oriented manner and making it available for sustainable and permanent use on a supra-regional basis. The ZBW takes into account the increasing tendency towards interdisciplinary work in economic research by additionally acquiring all publications of closely related sciences and auxiliary sciences with an economic focus.

With these collection areas, the ZBW forms part of the scientific literature supply and information systems in Germany.

The individual subject areas collected by the ZBW are mainly represented in the *Standard Thesaurus for Economics (STW)* (<http://zbw.eu/stw/versions/latest/about>).

2. Principles of collection structure and selection criteria

Inventory management for the ZBW is based on a regional ranking, the *ZBW* country ranking:

1. Germany
2. United States of America,
3. Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand
4. Latin America
5. Asia
6. Africa

Within the country rankings, the decisive criterion for the selection of literature from the fields of economics and business administration is the scientific significance of the publication or the national or international reputation of the authors, publishers or publishing institutions. In addition to this, the relevance of the materials for research and development as well as teaching and study is crucial. The publications procured must be relevant to research, e.g. by reproducing research results or by facilitating research. All relevant publications are primarily purchased in German and English. In addition, the publications are also procured in the respective national language.

The collection of economic and theoretical literature published in Germany is as complete as possible. Publications from the United States are largely procured in full. There is a select range of publications from countries in the other regions.

The collection of empirical or country-specific publications that are relevant to economic science in Germany is as complete as possible. This also includes industry literature. Literature from and about individual German regions is referenced, taking into account its economic relevance. Empirical or country-specific publications from the USA are largely collected in their entirety, provided they are relevant to economic science. According to the ranking, publications from other countries are only purchased as a selection. A selection of country-specific publications from the countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa is procured in the respective national language as well as in English.

For all countries and regions, practical literature is generally only collected as a selection and taking into account the wishes of our users. Relevant literature for business practice is procured as part of business administration. The criteria for selection are the reference to business management research and the importance of the publishers for economics. Publishers with a special focus on economics literature will be considered if there is a demand for these materials and if the relevance of these publications is given.

3. Main focus of building up the collection

The publications of international economic organisations are a particular focus of the collection:

The ZBW is a *European Documentation Centre (EDZ)* and therefore procures all publications relevant to economics from the *European Union (EU)* and its institutions, such as the publications of the *European Central Bank (ECB)*, the *European Investment Bank*, the *European Environment Agency* and from *Eurostat*.

In addition, the ZBW has a complete collection of the *OECD's* publications relevant to economic science as well as relevant publications of the *United Nations (UN)* and its specialised agencies. For example, a selection of publications from *CEPAL*, *FAO*, *ILO*, *UNCTAD* and *WHO* are procured. The ZBW is also a depositary library of the *World Trade Organisation (WTO)*. The collection of the publications of the *International Monetary Fund (IMF)* and the *World Bank* is as complete as possible. Discussion and working papers and reports on individual countries and regions are of particular importance in this respect.

Another special collection focus is all publications of the world's leading business schools, economic research institutes and national central banks.

4. Publication methods and forms of publication

The ZBW collects all publications of the collection area both in printed form and in digital form regardless of format [2]. Electronic publications are primarily procured, taking into account the supra-regional literature and information supply.

The acquisition of so-called grey literature (literature that does not appear in publishing houses) is of particular importance. For example, working papers from economics faculties are collected on a large scale.

The economics journals are procured in full, taking into account the country rankings and various journal rankings [3]. According to the country ranking and the economic importance, industry magazines are generally only purchased as a selection.

Economically relevant statistics play a major role for the portfolio. Statistics from Germany, and for individual regions, are collected in full. Only a selection of regional statistics or statistics of the constituent states from other countries are acquired, taking into account their economic importance. Statistical publications of international economic organisations are of particular relevance to economic science and are therefore procured as completely as possible and on a large scale.

Economic dissertations published in Germany are collected in their entirety and from the other countries according to the ranking up to and including the 3rd level of country ranking. Master's and diploma theses are only documented in individual cases and when published by suitable publishers. Working and discussion papers from Germany are procured in full and a selection are procured from other countries. Bachelor theses that are published by publishers are only collected from German-speaking countries in very rare cases.

Conference papers published by publishers are collected in full from Germany and from other countries according to the ranking. Only a selection of conference literature published outside the publishing trade is procured. Here, the ZBW is guided by the reputation of the conference or the organisers as well as user demand.

Textbooks published in Germany and English-language textbooks published by a renowned international publishing house are purchased in full. Manuals and business lexicons are collected in German and English, taking into account the country ranking. Only a selection of German and English language practical guides and manuals are procured as required and when published by suitable publishers.

1] For example, OCLC Worldcat, WISO-Net, FIS Education

2] For licence-free and freely accessible online publications that have been stored in long-term archives, permanent stable remote access via the ZBW's own search portal EconBiz is enabled. For network publications that are not already reliably archived on a long-term basis, archiving rights are acquired for the ZBW's own repositories so that the ZBW can ensure they are permanently available and can be effectively referenced online.

*[3] Inter alia ISI Web of Knowledge www.isiwebofknowledge.com/; VHB Ranking <http://vhbonline.org/service/jourqual/vhb-jourqual-3/>; Handelsblatt Ranking <http://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/konjunktur/bwl-ranking/>; Michael Bräuninger; Justus Haucap: What economists read and appreciate. In: *Perspectives for economic policy*. Bd.2(2001), H.2, pp. 185-210. (VWL)*