2015

International, Regional, and National Data Sets

Hermiz, Mena

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Step 1: You are writing an essay for your International Studies 101 course, and you have chosen to research the progress of the Millennium Development Goals in Kenya between 2000-2015.
Step 2: You find qualitative information by searching through books, scholarly articles, and credible websites.

The homepage of the U-M Library, http://www.lib.umich.edu, provides quick access to links and databases that contain research information.
You click on the “Articles Plus” tab in the main “Search” box, which offers an advanced search. Here, you limit your results to scholarly journals and those that can be accessed online. You search by subject, and define the years of publication.
You access the “Google Scholar” homepage to find more articles. It is available under the “Frequently Used Databases” list on the MLibrary homepage, or by Google searching “Google Scholar”. However, make sure you are signed into your U-M account before using Google Scholar, since having a university affiliation provides you with access to a further range of scholarly articles.
Step 3: You decide that you would like to include statistical information to back up your research and provide numerical evidence of the country’s development. You begin by searching under some of the comprehensive statistical databases featured under the “International Statistics” tab of this research guide. Knowing that the Millennium Development Goals were established by the United Nations, you think that “UN Data” would be a great portal to start with.
Step 4: However, a quick search of “Kenya Millennium Development Goals” brings up ZERO results. Thankfully, UN Data instead provides a direct link to its “Millennium Development Goals Database.” You click on this, and are directed to a list of datasets, with the tab for MDGs already opened.
Step 5: However, since you are looking for information related specifically to Kenya, you click on the green “i” next to “Millennium Development Goals Database” to find that there is a direct link to “Online Data,” which takes you to a webpage that contains more specific information.
Step 6: Now, you are able to search directly for MDG progress in Kenya. The results can be organized by “indicator” or “country.” On the same website, you can also find more information using the drop-down tabs featured at the top.
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**Step 7:** You may want to explore other methods for finding statistics, to compare data and gain a wider range of information on the same topic. There are many other options available.

**Step 7a:** First, you could try exploring the UN Data website in more detail. On the homepage, you can see that there is a list of icons at the bottom, that belong to individual United Nations organizations. Clicking on the icons takes you to a new page with additional data portals.
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the organization specifically responsible for creating and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.
The link for the UNDP webpage contains further information specifically focused on the MDGs, including relevant articles and data.
In the top left-hand corner of the page, there is a drop-down menu entitled “UNDP around the world”. Scrolling over this will give you a list of countries, where you can find further information on development and the MDGs.
Step 7b: Next, you could also try some of the other comprehensive international statistics databases featured on the first tab of this guide. For example, OECD statistics has an option to browse by theme and country.
Step 7c: Because most countries have their own official data websites, you could also try going straight to Kenya’s government statistics page. Using this guide, and clicking on “Sub-Saharan Africa” under the “Regional and National Statistics” tab, you will find that Kenya has two separate websites that contain official statistics. Explore these pages by using the search bars or looking for data by topic.
Enabling Developers

The Kenya Open Data Initiative seeks to foster an innovation ecosystem around government data and is giving developers a chance to interact with the data, be able to use it and create interesting mash ups and innovative applications.
Step 7d: external resources - from google and on this guide (?)
Step 8: You include the statistical data in your research paper, making sure to properly cite the sources you used in finding this data, according to your teacher’s guidelines.
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