

Sports
RIS Presentation
3/26/10

- High level of interest in sports topics across many different disciplines
- Some departments that have had recent senior theses on sports topics
 - Psychology, Architecture, Anthropology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Mathematics, History, Politics, Religion, Woodrow Wilson, Computer Science, Economics, Operations Research and Financial Engineering
- Topics are wide ranging.
- In my areas, the questions tend to be quantitative/statistical. Ex.
 - Forecasting the NBA: Optimal Betting Strategies in Basketball. AUTHOR: Vasich, Christopher Brian Operations Research and Financial Engineering
 - Doping in Sports: A Mathematical Approach (54 pages). AUTHOR: Markfield, Eric Benjamin (2009), Operations Research and Financial Engineering
 - Labor Mobility in Professional Soccer. AUTHOR: Ugwi, Gregory , Mathematics Department
 - From the Gridiron to the Flat Iron: The Effect of Sports Sentiment on Wall Street (85 pages). AUTHOR: Koroleva, Daria V. Economics Department

- But many non-quant areas are covered:
 - Religion -- Peacing it Together: Sports as a Venue for Democratic, Pluralistic Truth and Religious Peace-Building. Lockwood, Casey
 - Civil and Environmental Engineering - The Louisiana Superdome: A Structural and Financial Analysis of One of Sports' Most Influential Stadiums. Whitaker, Kyle T.
 - History Department - Gangsters, Goodfellas, and the Mob: The Influence of Organized Crime in Sports During the 20th Century. AUTHOR: Schaus, Kristen E.
 - Sociology Department - Athletes Behaving Badly: The Relationship Between Risky Behavior & Sports. AUTHOR: Shiflett, Brett A. (2009).
 - Ecology - The Effect of Individual Performance on Testosterone, Cortisol, and Mood in Sports Competition. AUTHOR: Byrd, 2008
 - Politics Department - A Zero Sum game: The Effect if Title IX on Intercollegiate Athletics (80 pages). AUTHOR: White, Joshua

Collection Development

- We don't just acquire scholarly materials
 - Lots of sports biographies are published
 - Lots of popular press sports books
- Areas collected

- Try to acquire in all major sports and major issues related to sports
 - Many area selectors acquire sports materials
 - Ex. Fernando buys a number of soccer monographs
 - Ex. South Asian librarian - cricket
 - For specific sports -- most comprehensive areas are probably Olympics and there is a very high level of interest in soccer materials from throughout the world.
 - Library Catalog search. Ex. doping
- Sports research guide
 - <http://firestone.princeton.edu/econlib/sportsite>
 - Ex. Baseball
 - [Baseball Statistics](#) (courtesy of Sean Lahman)
- Sports statistics in general – we don't subscribe to a sports statistics database. Generally can get the statistics free on the web.
 - Most common unanswerable questions – internal sports data. “How profitable are the New York Yankees.” Very little financial info available for U.S. sports teams.
 - Many European sports clubs do have to release financial info.
 - Ex. Manchester United financials are available in the Amadeus finance database.
- Databases
 - Sports specific
 - Sports Discus

- Has lots of kinesiology and sports medicine articles (which we don't tend to get), but it is pretty decent for sports scholarly topics
- Ex. Title IX – peer reviewed
- More complicated when a topic borders on sports medicine. Ex. Doping (has lots of medical articles)
- SBRnet
 - Doesn't cover scholarly material.
 - Useful for questions on the business of sports (sports trade publications). Search relevance is not great, but luckily universe (sports trade pubs) is not that big.
 - Ex. World Cup vs. World Cup South Africa
 - Has lots of cool sports demographic info
 - TV viewership. Ex. Pro Football. Horse Racing.
 - Participation. Ex. Yoga.
- Multidisciplinary
 - Many sports topics get coverage in multiple disciplines. Ex. Sports and ethics
- Subject databases
 - Don't forget to use them, depending on the question.
 - Religion - Ex. Sports and religion. ATLA database.
 - Education – Ex. Title IX and community colleges. ERIC database.

- Law – Ex. NCAA and Title IX. LexisNexis Academic
- Sample of most popular questions I get
 - Economic analysis of European soccer clubs. Sources: standings (widely available on web), finances (Amadeus, Deloitte Football Finance), and stock prices (Datastream)
 - Economic development related to stadium, holding Olympics, World Cup, etc. Sources: local or country-level economic data (LibGuides related to intl. and US economic data).
 - Examples of other topics – Title IX (sources depend whether topic is related to law, education, history, etc.).