



Finding grey literature and data

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1 What is grey literature?

Grey literature is any material that has not been formally published by a commercial publisher. If you can buy it in a bookshop it is probably not grey literature; it does not appear in books or journals.

Grey literature covers a very wide range of material including reports, guidelines, theses, conference proceedings, technical specifications and standards, commercial or official documentation, working papers, data sets and policy documents. It can be produced by any organisation but is often authored by government departments, NGOs, research centres, academic institutions and international organisations.

1.1 Bibliographic databases & grey literature

You'll find that some of the bibliographical databases that the School subscribes to contain grey literature as well as journal articles. You can find these listed on our web-pages www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/databases/database_grey.html

1.2 Search engines & grey literature

Grey literature is difficult to find due to its ephemeral nature, it is often not collected and indexed by libraries or databases. Much of it is simply published online on organisational websites and this means a search engine such as Google can be an effective and valid way to retrieve it.

Grey literature is increasingly being published in institutional repositories. These are online, open access spaces that are used by academic organisations to archive their research output. Google is not particularly effective at finding content within repositories so you may wish to use a search engine that has been designed with this in mind. SCRUIS www.scirus.com/ and BASE www.base-search.net/ are popular choices.

2 NHS Evidence

2.1 What is it?

NHS is a web-based portal that aims to provide NHS staff with access to all of the evidence-based information they require for their professional practice. It is put together by a team of health professionals and information specialists. The service is managed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

2.2 How do I access it?

The resource is freely available online at www.evidence.nhs.uk/.

2.3 What can I find there?

NHS Evidence covers both clinical and non-clinical topics of interest to NHS staff. As this resource is aimed at NHS professionals, it has a pronounced UK bias, both in the topics and issues covered and the documents included. Documents include: guidelines and protocols, systematic reviews, specialist websites, evidence updates, learning materials and patient information. They are produced by a wide range of organisations including NHS bodies, government departments, NGOs, and research institutions.

Most of the information is freely available in full-text.

2.4 How do I search it?

Enter your terms into the search box. You can use an asterisk (*) for truncation, and AND & OR to combine terms together. Use quotations marks "" to find phrases. However, the search interface is not very sophisticated so you should keep your search strategy as simple as possible.

Once you have run a search, your results will be shown. You can then use the tabs on the left hand side of the screen to refine your results further. It is possible to filter results using a number of options including by type of clinical query, type of information, source, and date of publication.

You can also browse collections of information on specific clinical conditions at www.evidence.nhs.uk/topics.

2.5 How do I deal with the results?

There is currently no way to export your results into EndNote. You can create an account within NHS Evidence and save searches and results. It is also possible to set up alerts to notify you of new or updated material.

3 ELDIS

3.1 What is it?

ELDIS provides access to freely available full-text documents on a variety of development issues and therefore most of the content is relevant to low and middle income settings. The type of material indexed includes case studies, policy briefings, statistics, research reports, working papers and conference papers. These are sourced from a variety of organisations including NGOs, international, national or governmental organisations, academic bodies and private companies. ELDIS provided by the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex.

3.2 How do I access it?

ELDIS is freely available from any computer with access to the Internet at <http://www.eldis.org>.

3.3 How do I search it?

Although there is a search option within ELDIS it is very basic and unreliable. I suggest that you browse the database to find the material that you need.

You can browse the information in ELDIS by topic or by geographical area. The main topics are listed in the green bar in the middle of the page whilst the geographical areas are listed in the white box on the right of the screen.

Topic areas

The main topic areas covered by ELDIS are:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Ageing populations | Environment | ICT for development |
| Agriculture | Finance Policy | Influencing policy |
| Aid | Food security | Migration |
| Children and young people | Gender | Participation |
| Climate change adaptation | Governance | Poverty |
| Conflict and security | HIV and AIDS | Trade and gender |
| Corporate responsibility | Health | Trade policy |
| Education | Health systems | Trafficking |
| | Human resources for health | |

When you click on a topic area, you will be able to see links to the most recently added items on this topic in the middle of the page. On the left are links to sub-topics, which can also link to further sub-topics.

Geographical areas

Choose which region or country you are interested in. Links to general topics are shown on the left, together with a list of subject areas you may be interested in.

Click a link to view all of the items relating to the chosen topic in the area. On the right of the page is a link to selected websites of interest to people working in the area, these include links to local organisations, local newspapers etc.

3.4 Dealing with your results

All of the information in ELDIS is available in full text. ELDIS does not have any options to export citation information to EndNote or to send items to email. Instead, it is expected that individual items will be downloaded and saved or printed.

4 New York Academy of Medicine Grey Literature Report

4.1 What is it?

The New York Academy of Medicine Grey Literature Report is a bimonthly, online publication which began in 1999. It collates recently published grey literature produced by non-commercial organisations such as government agencies, non-profit organisations, universities, independent research centres and international organisations. Topics coverage includes health and science policy, public health, the health of vulnerable and minority populations, and those areas of general medicine and disease in which the Academy has research interests.

4.2 How do I access it?

The Grey Literature Report is freely accessible from computers with access to the Internet at www.nyam.org/library/pages/grey_literature_report.

4.3 How do I search it?

Search options are fairly limited. Each report can be browsed to extract relevant content, or you can undertake basic keyword searches using the Library Catalogue of the New York Academy of Medicine <http://nyam.waldo.kohalibrary.com/>. By selecting the catalogue's advanced search option you are able to choose to search only for grey literature using the limits towards the bottom of the screen. The search options are very basic and allow only simple combining of keywords with AND, OR and NOT.

4.4 Dealing with your results

The majority of items in the Grey Literature Report are freely available electronically. Items retrieved through a search of the catalogue will indicate whether the document is available in full text and provide a link. It is not possible to save or export results; it is expected that items will be opened and printed immediately.

5 World Bank resources

5.1 What is it?

The World Bank give free access to a number of datasets. These are:

- World development indicators and global development finance
- Gender Statistics
- Education Statistics
- Health Nutrition and Population Statistics
- Africa Development Indicators
- Global Economic Monitor
- Millennium Development Goals

More details about these datasets is available via the World Bank data catalog, online at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog>.

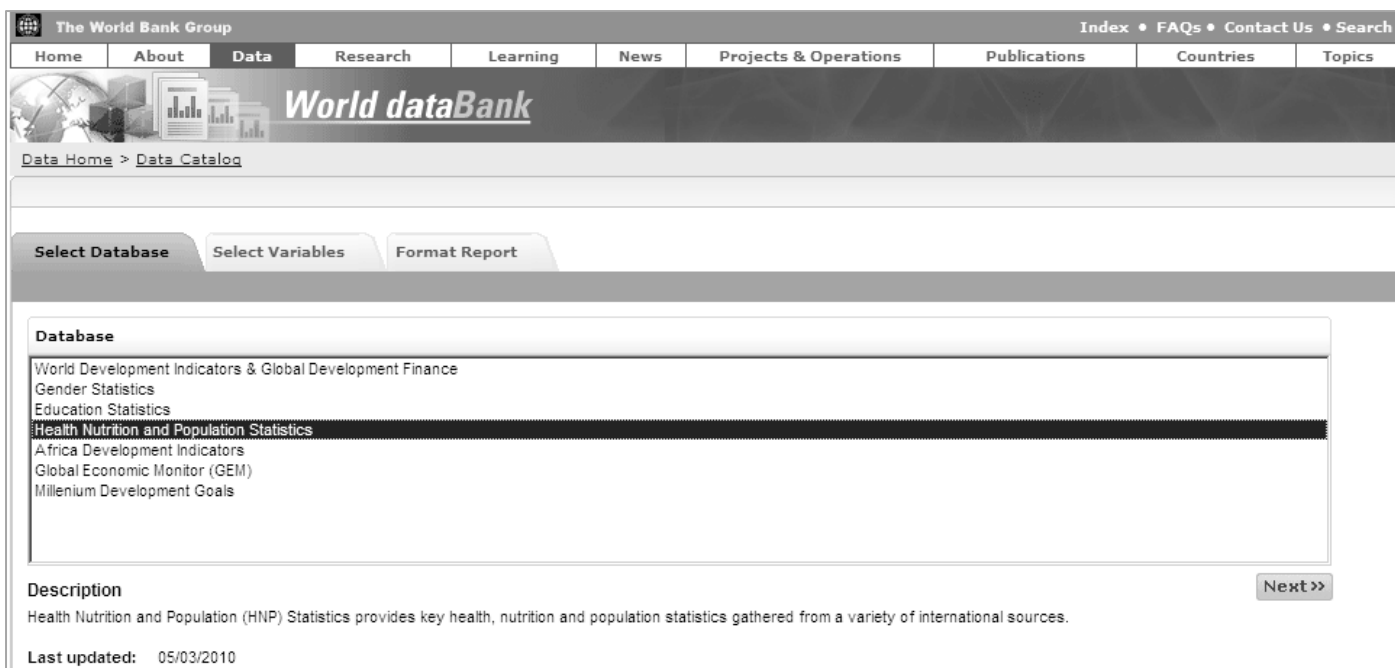
5.2 How do I access it?

The data is freely available at <http://databank.worldbank.org>.

5.3 How do I search it?

Searching the data is a three step process: choosing the dataset, choosing the variables and then choosing the output format.

Start by choosing the dataset you wish to access. Click Next to move to the next stage.

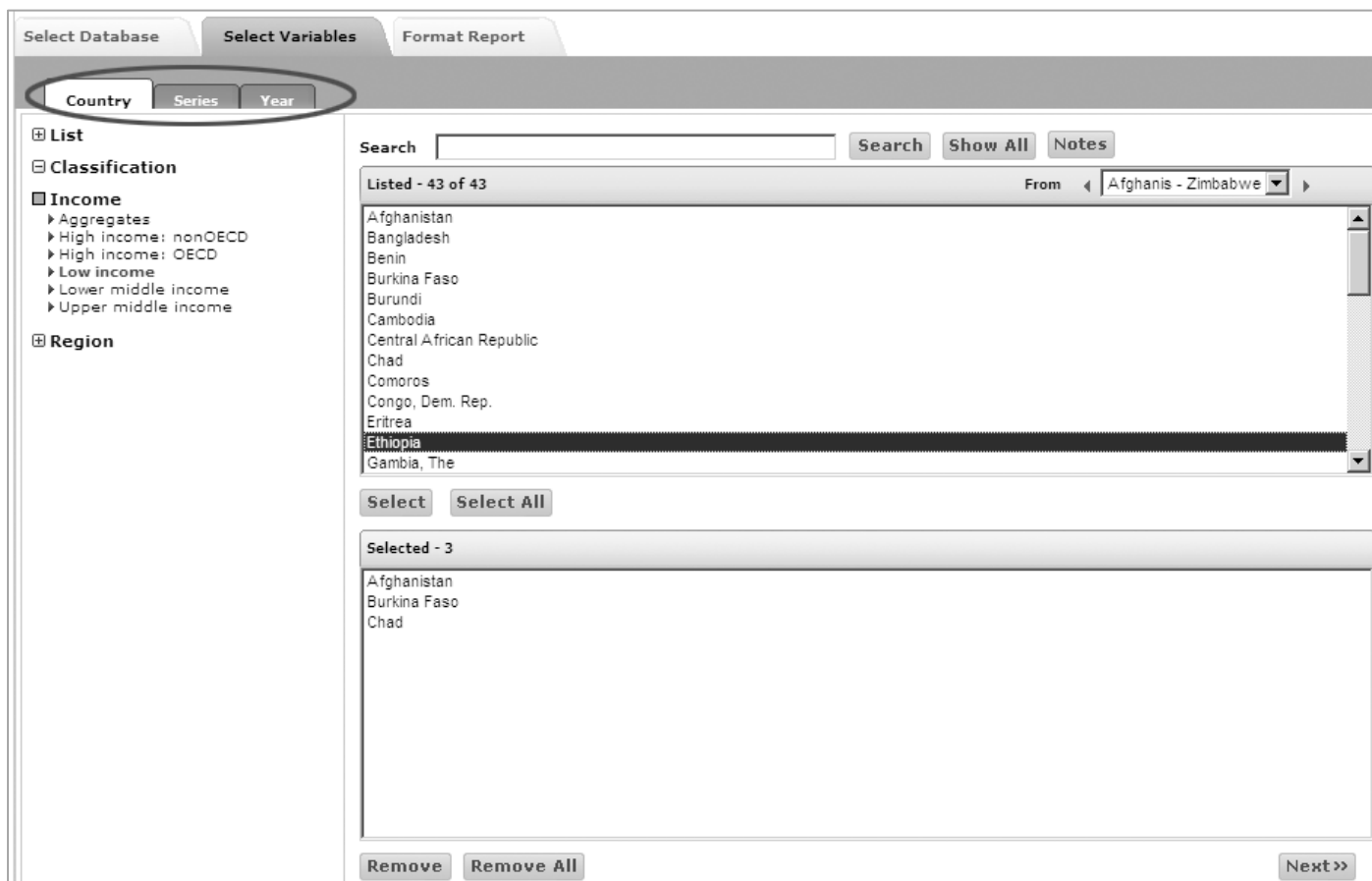


The screenshot shows the World Bank Group's Data Catalog interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Data, Research, Learning, News, Projects & Operations, Publications, Countries, and Topics. The main header features the 'World dataBank' logo and a breadcrumb trail: 'Data Home > Data Catalog'. Below this, there are three tabs: 'Select Database', 'Select Variables', and 'Format Report'. The 'Select Database' tab is active, displaying a list of databases. The list includes: World Development Indicators & Global Development Finance, Gender Statistics, Education Statistics, Health Nutrition and Population Statistics (which is highlighted), Africa Development Indicators, Global Economic Monitor (GEM), and Millenium Development Goals. Below the list, there is a 'Description' section for the selected 'Health Nutrition and Population (HNP) Statistics' dataset, which states: 'Health Nutrition and Population (HNP) Statistics provides key health, nutrition and population statistics gathered from a variety of international sources.' A 'Next >>' button is located to the right of the description. At the bottom left, it says 'Last updated: 05/03/2010'.

Next you must select your variables. There are three variables you need to choose: the countries you are interested in, the series, and the year(s). You must choose at least one value for each of the three variables.

Choosing your countries

Countries can be chosen by region, income group or an A-Z list. You can choose as many or as few countries as you wish. Make your selection in the top box then click 'Select' or 'Select all' to move your selection to the bottom box. Only values in the bottom box will be included in your results.



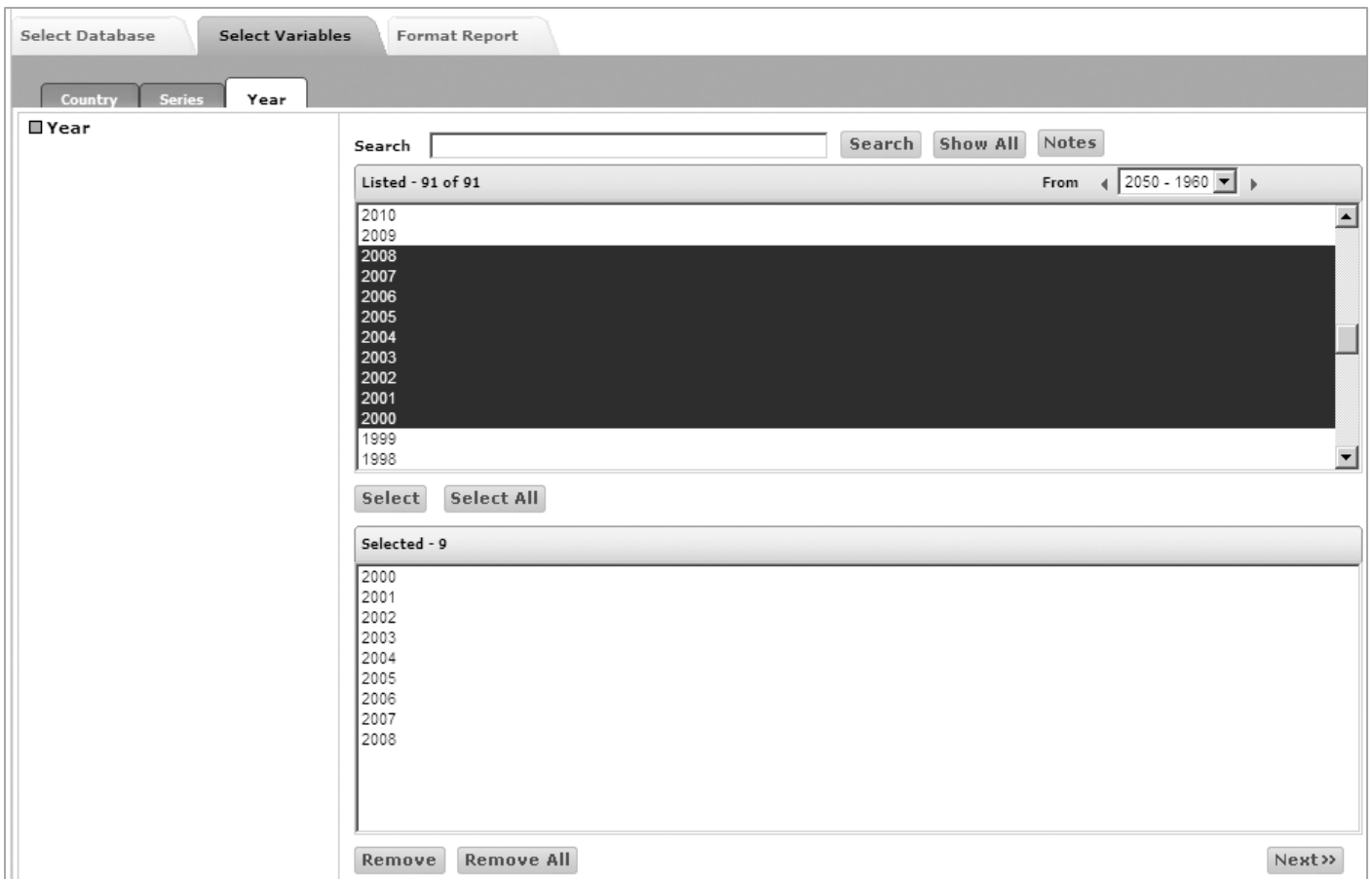
Choosing your data series

Once you have chosen the countries you want, click the Series tab at the top of the screen to choose your second variable(s), or click Next. Some of the datasets contain hundreds of series, often split into categories, available on the left. Click on the category to view the series available. As with the countries, choose the series you want, ensuring they appear in the box at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'Select Variables' tab of a data selection tool. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Select Database', 'Select Variables', and 'Format Report'. Below these are three sub-tabs: 'Country', 'Series', and 'Year'. The 'Series' tab is active, showing a search bar and a list of 255 variables. The variable 'Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)' is highlighted in the list. Below the list, there are 'Select' and 'Select All' buttons. A 'Selected - 1' section shows the chosen variable. At the bottom, there are 'Remove', 'Remove All', and 'Next >>' buttons.

Choosing the data years

Once you have chosen the series you need, click the Year tab at the top of the screen, or next. Finally, choose which years you are interested in. Note that the data is often two years behind.

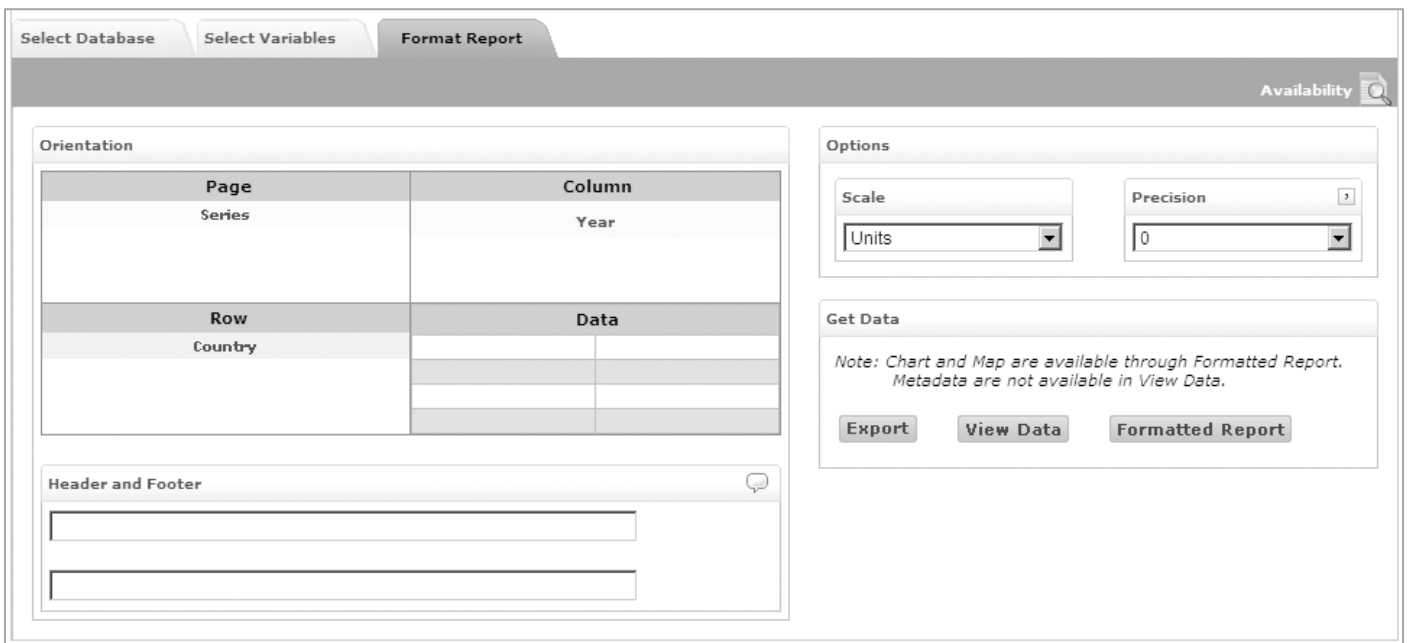


Note that not all countries, series and years contain data.

Formatting your results

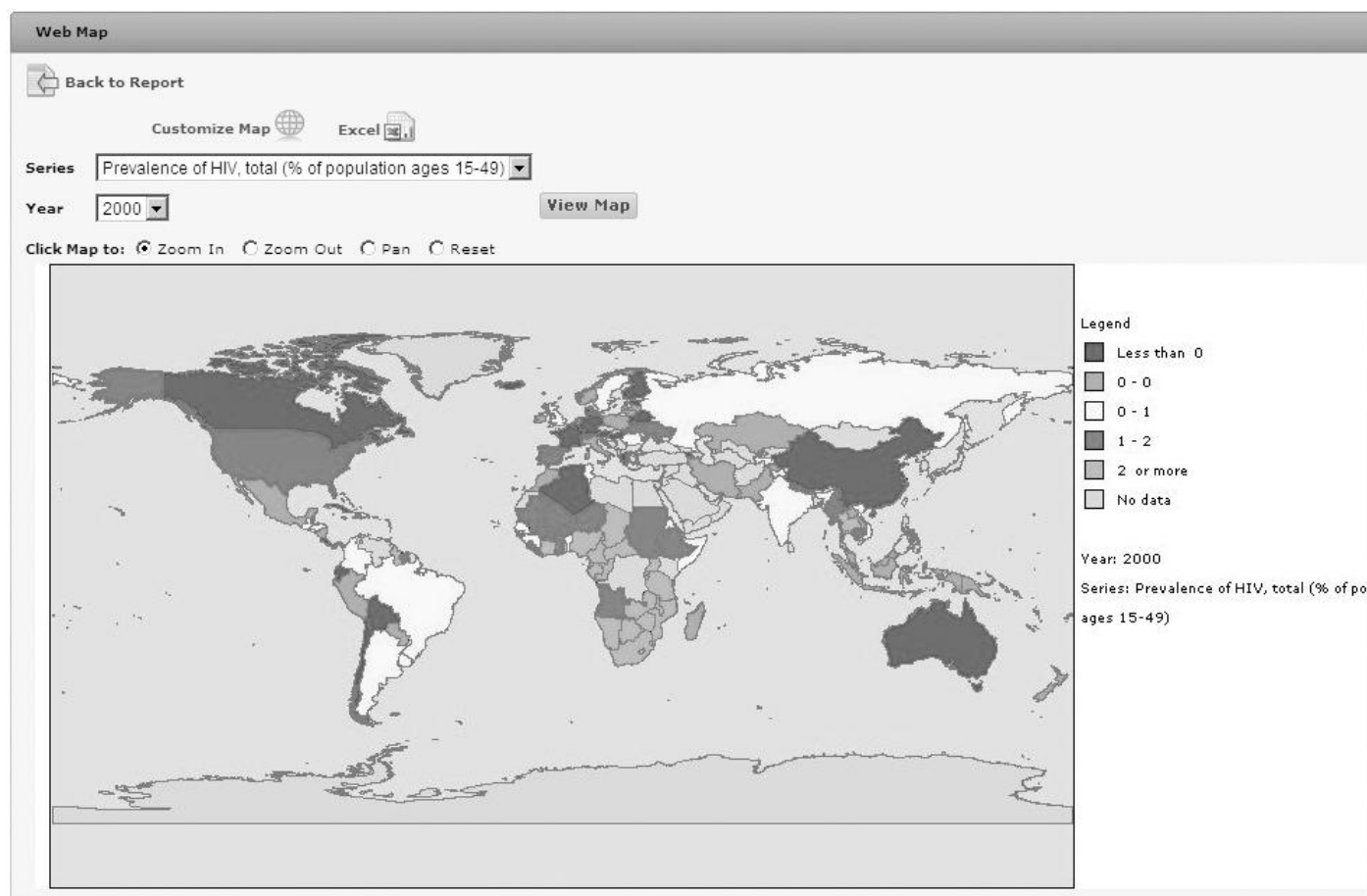
Click Next or Format Report to choose your output format.

The Format Report screen is displayed.



Drag and drop the variables within the Orientation screen. I moved 'Country' from Page to Row, and 'Series' from Row to Page.

Click Export to export the data to an Excel, CSV or Tabbed text file. Click View Data to view the figures in a table. Click Formatted Report to view charts and maps.



6 ESDS resources

6.1 What is it?

ESDS is the Economic and Social Data Service and it provides access to a variety of data sources on all aspects of the social sciences.

There are two areas of the ESDS which will be of interest to LSHTM students: ESDS Government and ESDS International.

6.1.1 ESDS Government

This provides access to UK Government surveys including:

- Annual population survey
- British crime survey
- British social attitudes
- Expenditure and food survey
- General household survey
- Health survey for England
- Households below average income
- National food survey
- Vital statistics

6.1.2 ESDS International

This provides access to international surveys and datasets provided by IEA, IMF, OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank*. Including:

- IMF Balance of payment statistics
- OECD International Development
- OECD International Migration Statistics
- United Nations Common Database
- World Bank World Development Indicators
- World Bank Africa Development Indicators

ESDS also provides links to national statistics institutions and other international data archives.

6.2 How do I access it?

All ESDS resources are free to anyone studying at a UK Higher Education institution. The first time you use the system you will be asked to register. Thereafter, just log in with your LSHTM network username and password when prompted.

ESDS resources can be accessed from any computer at www.esds.ac.uk/.

6.3 How do I search it?

This depends on the resource you choose. As the quantity of data available is huge, ESDS have produced useful guides on finding your way around.

Clicking on the DATA tab at the top of the screen gives you a list of the datasets available. Click on the name of the dataset to find out more about it, access it, and view a guide to extracting data from it.

Userguides are also available on the website at www.esds.ac.uk/government/resources/ (for the government datasets) and www.esds.ac.uk/international/resources/dataset_guides.asp (for the international datasets).

ESDS International also maintains a list of other sources of data around the world. This includes national data archives, national statistics institutes and regional information. The list is available at www.esds.ac.uk/international/resources/guide.asp.

* If you wish to view data from the World Bank, I recommend you access this via the World Bank's website, see section 5 for more details.

7 OECD Health Data

7.1 What is it?

Statistics on a number of health related services and procedures from the OECD countries.

7.2 How do I access it?

Please use the link available on the Library databases pages at www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/. You will need to login using your LSHTM user-name and password.

7.3 How do I search it?

Choose the variables you wish to display from the options on the left, or search through the alphabetical list available under the search tab.


Once a variable is selected, you are given options to choose the years displayed and the countries required.

You can choose multiple variables to be displayed together, remove variables by clicking the cross on the white toolbar on the top of the screen.


Click Show Result to display the data.

OECD Health Data 2008 - Version: December 2008

Expenditure on prevention and public health, Total expenditure on prevention and public health, % total expenditure on health, TEH

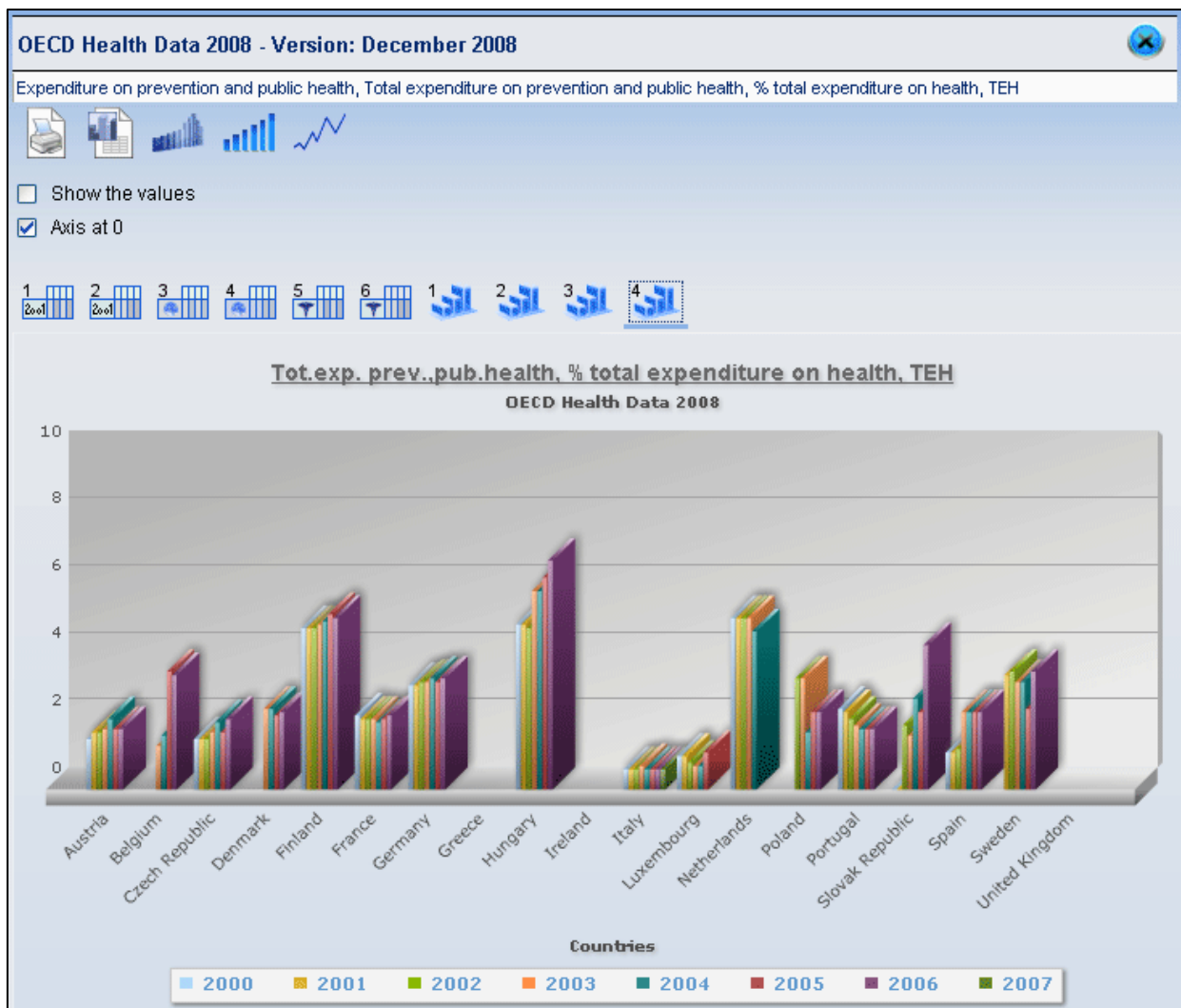


Include the Sources and Methods
 Add the legends in the exported file



| Countries | 2000 Tot.exp. prev.,pub.health % total expenditure on health, TEH | 2001 Tot.exp. prev.,pub.health % total expenditure on health, TEH | 2002 Tot.exp. prev.,pub.health % total expenditure on health, TEH |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Austria | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Belgium | | | |
| Czech Republic | 1.5 b | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Denmark | | | |
| Finland | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| France | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Germany | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| Greece | | | |
| Hungary | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| Ireland | | | |
| Italy | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Luxembourg | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Netherlands | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Poland | | | 3.3 |
| Portugal | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Slovak Republic | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 |

Buttons at the top of the results give options for exporting the data and for displaying the data. It can be displayed in table or graph format.



8 OHE Compendium of Health Statistics

8.1 What is it?

UK health and population statistics compiled by the Office of Health Economics. The Compendium comprises four main sections plus a glossary and references.

- Section 1 gives a summary of UK demographic statistics, including the mortality and morbidity experience of the population. Comparisons are made with European Union and OECD countries.
- Section 2 examines the financing of the NHS and draws international comparisons. In addition, it brings together information on the main areas of private health care in the UK.
- Section 3 provides a detailed account of NHS hospital activity together with information on the hospital workforce and cost of treatment.
- Section 4 gives detailed coverage of the activities of the NHS Family Health Services: general medical, pharmaceutical, dental and ophthalmic.

8.2 How do I access it?

The OHE Health Statistics are available at www.ohecompendium.org/index.cfm?task=loginOHE, they require a special username and password for access. Details are given on the passwords page at <http://intra.lshtm.ac.uk/library/passwords.html> (this page is only available via a School computer or remote desktop).

Login via the login box and choose the year you wish to view – we have access from 2007 to the most recent dataset (2009).

8.3 How do I search it?

Choose the dataset or figure you wish to view from the table of contents on the left of the screen. The green arrow buttons above the table of contents allow you to view the contents alone, the results alone or the default split-screen display.

8.4 How do I export the results?

If you have displayed a table, click the Excel icon at the top of the screen. This displays the table in a new browser window, from here it can be saved or copied and pasted into another software package. If you have displayed a figure, click the Powerpoint icon at the top of the screen. This displays the figure in a new browser window, from here it can be saved or copied and pasted into another software package.