Course Guide

http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/eco406

• Presentation
• Links to resources
• Links to additional help
Key Steps In The Research Process

1. Background research
2. Focus your topic
3. Build your research question
4. Use appropriate resources
5. Keyword search strategy

NOT A LINEAR PROCESS
Key Steps In The Research Process

“Minimum wage increase $14”
Key Step: Background Research

• Start with some **background research** to develop a broad understanding of your topic before you focus

• Use
  • **Websites** (with caution – and just for background)
  • **Reference works** (e.g. handbooks, encyclopedias)
    • *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*
    • *Oxford Handbooks Online*
  • **Books**
Key Step: Focus Your Topic

• Think about
  • Geography, e.g. Canada, Ontario
  • Specific events, e.g. new legislation, mandatory minimum wage increase
  • Time period, e.g. 2017, last minimum wage increase
  • Population, e.g. youth, unemployed
  • Technology, e.g. automation, self-check out machines
  • Economic concept
Key Step: Build Your Research Question

- Topic: Minimum wage
- Focused Topic: Minimum wage and its impact on unemployment
- Research Question(s):
  Does an increase in the minimum wage increase the number of unemployed individuals?
Key Step: Keyword Search Strategy

• Generate A List of Keywords For Your Search
• Identify key concepts in your research question

Research question(s):

Does an increase in the minimum wage increase the number of unemployed youth?
Key Step: Keyword Search Strategy

• Generate A List of Keywords Associated with Each Key Concept

  - Synonyms
  - Narrower terms
  - Related terms
  - Broader terms

• Find keywords through research & brainstorming
  - Not all terms you identify will be relevant for your research!
Key Step: Use Appropriate Resources

- **Use appropriate library resources**
  - Scholarly books
    - You might already have found some through your background research!
  - Scholarly articles
# What is a Scholarly Article?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular articles</th>
<th>Scholarly articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Written by journalists or professional writers</td>
<td>• Written by experts (faculty, researchers, scholars), with credentials provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Written for a general, non-scholarly audience</td>
<td>• Written for experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use language easily understood by general readers</td>
<td>• Use technical language that is discipline-specific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tend to be shorter</td>
<td>• Tend to be longer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rarely cite sources</td>
<td>• Include a bibliography or references</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Do not have abstracts</td>
<td>• Usually have an abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• May refer to research but is not intended for scholarly communication</td>
<td>• Report results of original research or analyzes or interprets other research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from:
Scholarly/Peer-Reviewed Articles

- **Peer-reviewed or refereed**
  - Article reviewed by a panel of experts prior to publication
  - Assessed
    - Originality
    - Validity
    - Methodology
    - Significance
  - Functions like **quality assurance**
  - **Book reviews** and **editorials** published in journals are NOT usually peer-reviewed
Scholarly Article Databases

• Databases **aggregate** articles from many journals and **tag** or **index** these to make your research easier.

• Library Resources - Recommended databases for ECO406 include:
  - **Econlit**
  - JSTOR
  - Google Scholar
  - Business Source Premier
  - Quicklaw
  - PolicyFile
  - ABI/Inform Global
  - LexisNexis Academic
  - Web of Science
Can Minimum Wages Raise Workers’ Incomes in the Long Run?

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Athens University of Economics and Business and CESifo

Thomas Moutos  
Athens University of Economics and Business and CESifo

Abstract

Using an intertemporal model of saving and capital accumulation with two types of agents we demonstrate that it is impossible for any binding minimum wage to increase the after-tax incomes of workers if the production function is Cobb-Douglas with constant returns to scale, or if there are no differences in ability among workers. Moreover, it is impossible to increase the incomes of employed workers through minimum wage legislation, even under decreasing returns to scale and heterogeneity of ability among workers, unless the support provided to unemployed workers is far below what they would earn in the absence of minimum wages.

1 The early consensus regarding the effects of minimum wage increases on employment in the United States (e.g., Brown, Gilroy, and Kohen 1982) indicated some disemployment effects, mainly concentrated on teenagers and young adults. Following Card and Krueger’s (1994) study questioning the existence of disemployment effects, there have been many studies but no consensus regarding their size or existence (see, e.g., Manning 2003; Neumark and Wascher 2008; Dube, Lester, and Reich 2016; Mccr and West 2013).

2 The issue of whether the minimum wage is an efficient redistributive tool is not the subject of this paper; for papers discussing this issue, see, for example, Allen (1987), Guesnerie and Roberts...

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Evaluating Articles: Scholarly Article Indicators

References


Evaluating Articles: Ulrichsweb

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Basic Description

Title: Journal of Public Economic Theory
ISSN: 1467-9779
Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Inc.
Country: United States
Status: Active
Frequency: Bi-monthly
Language of Text: Text in: English
Refereed: Yes
Abstracted/Index: Yes
Serial Type: Journal
Content Type: Academic/Scholarly
Format: Online
Website:
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9779
Description:
Publishes theoretical work in all areas of public economics.
Citing Your Sources

TIPS

✓ Always acknowledge another’s ideas and words by citing your source
✓ If in doubt, cite it
✓ Be consistent with the style you use
✓ Take advantage of built-in citation generation tools associated with library resources
Need Help?

• Drop-in at the reference desk
• Live ‘Ask a Librarian’ chat service
• Email: askutml.utm@utoronto.ca
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