

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics* inaugurates a new bibliographic tool for researchers in economics. Designed to help researchers keep track of the best and most recent research in economics, finance, and econometrics, *Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics* contains complete bibliographic information on recent working papers produced by leading scholars at over 60 of the world's preeminent research institutions, including university economics departments, business schools, government agencies, and private research organizations. Together, these research centers produce upwards of 1500 working papers per year. By covering approximately 375 to 400 current working papers in each quarterly issue, *Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics* makes it possible to keep abreast of the cutting edge of economic research, and provides access to this material months and even years before it appears in print in the major economic research journals.

Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics contains five sections, each of which is designed to aid the researcher in locating relevant material. The first section contains a complete bibliographic entry for each current working paper, arranged alphabetically by the last name of the primary author. Papers of secondary authors are cross-referenced to the primary author. In addition to standard information such as title and issuing institution, the author index includes lengthy informative abstracts, keywords, and *Journal of Economic Literature* (JEL) subject classification numbers. Also included are the price of the working paper and the address of the issuing institution, so that the papers can be readily requested.

An index of current papers appearing in the various series contributing to *Abstracts of Working Papers in Economics* follows the first section. This section is useful in tracking the output of any given research center, as well as acting as an aid to libraries and others maintaining collections of the working papers themselves. Papers are cross-referenced to the primary author for ease in accessing the complete bibliographic entry.

A keyword index follows, allowing researchers to find articles dealing with specific topics quickly. These keywords, supplied by the author, are cross-referenced to the primary author for ease in locating the article in the author index. A similar function is served by the permuted title index which follows, in which titles are cross-referenced to primary authors. For each title, there are separate entries corresponding to each significant word in the title, with the entries arranged alphabetically by significant title words. Thus, one may easily find any article with a particular word occurring in its title.

The fifth section of this journal is devoted to brief articles dealing with the use of the AWPE DATABASE. This database is available online through BRS, a major provider of online information, and contains all of the information appearing in this journal, as well as data on over 4000 working papers dating from 1984 to the present. The data in the AWPE DATABASE can be accessed and displayed in a great variety of ways using powerful BRS search procedures. In each issue of this journal, we will explore different aspects of these procedures, and display and discuss sample searches performed on the AWPE DATABASE. The editor welcomes contributions to this section. For details, see "Instructions to Contributors" on the inside back cover.

The creation of this journal and the AWPE DATABASE was made possible by the efforts of many individuals. Primary among these is Colin Day of Cambridge University Press, without whose enthusiastic support and guidance this project could not have been realized. Others at CUP who have lent their enthusiasm and considerable talent are Barbara Colson, James Alexander, and Tom Bacher. Throughout the development of this project, Kenneth Kroner has valiantly handled processing the sometimes overwhelming volume of working papers.

Of course, the entire project would not be possible without the cooperation and assistance of the working paper authors themselves, whose efforts in filling out the AWPE datasheets are greatly appreciated, and the editorial committee, who, together with administrative liaisons at each contributing institution, ensure a timely and steady flow of information for this journal.