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The TimeWeb Project

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The Institute for Learning and Research Technology is a national centre of excellence in the development and use of technology-based methods in teaching, learning and research



Biz/ed

- Based at the ILRT - University of Bristol
- Supports teachers, lecturers and students of economics and business
- In excess of 1 million page accesses per month
- Work with a variety of partners including IFS, Bank of England, Virgin, BBC

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Biz/ed sections

The main sections of the site are:

- Internet Catalogue
- Data
- Company Facts
- Learning Materials
- Virtual Worlds

MIMAS

- National data centre
- Based at University of Manchester
- Hold OECD, IMF, ONS and UNIDO data
- Also offer statistical analysis packages, computing resources, data sharing and specialist support

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TimeWeb

- TimeWeb - partnership between Biz/ed and MIMAS
- Creation of user-friendly Web-based interface to MIMAS datasets
- Integration of datasets with learning materials
- Unique resource for users of time-series data

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Interface development

- Current interface to IMF/OECD/UNIDO databanks is via SAS and X-windows
- Complexity makes it very difficult to provide easy end-user access
- SAS at the forefront of web integration technology
- Web-based interface uses Java applets

Prototype web interface

- Based on OECD data
- Allows subsetting, trending, graphing, analysis and saving of data in CSV format

<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/sasweb/timeweb/>

Learning Materials - principles

- Closely integrated with MIMAS data interface
- Aimed at variety of end-users
- Student-focused
- Helping teachers, lecturers and learners to integrate materials into courses

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Sample dataset

- Create sample dataset from key data provider
- Assist users in developing basic selection and data-handling skills
- Ensure a higher degree of confidence using the full MIMAS data

Learning materials

Generic structure focuses on key data processes:

- Digging
- Crunching
- Buffing

Learning Materials

Each process has a variety of themes and materials including:

- Tour
- Explanation
- Illustration
- Worksheets
- Review and self-assessment

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Learning materials

Materials also include:

- Reference guide
 - Glossary
 - User guide
 - Background information
 - Spreadsheet guide
 - Using data in practice
- Integration with Biz/ed features

Skills development

Materials aimed to help with development of a range of skills:

- Knowledge
- Application
- Evaluation
- Synthesis

Development principles

- Usability - consistent navigation, flexible learning styles
- Efficiency - familiarity and diversity
- Integration - stand-alone integrated resource
- Interactivity - assessment, task-based worksheets

Biz/ed, MIMAS and TimeWeb

Biz/ed

<http://www.bized.ac.uk/>

MIMAS

<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/>

TimeWeb

<http://www.mimas.ac.uk/sasweb/timeweb/>

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