

**The California Community Colleges
CCL-EAR Committee
Review Update
RAND California
March 2006**

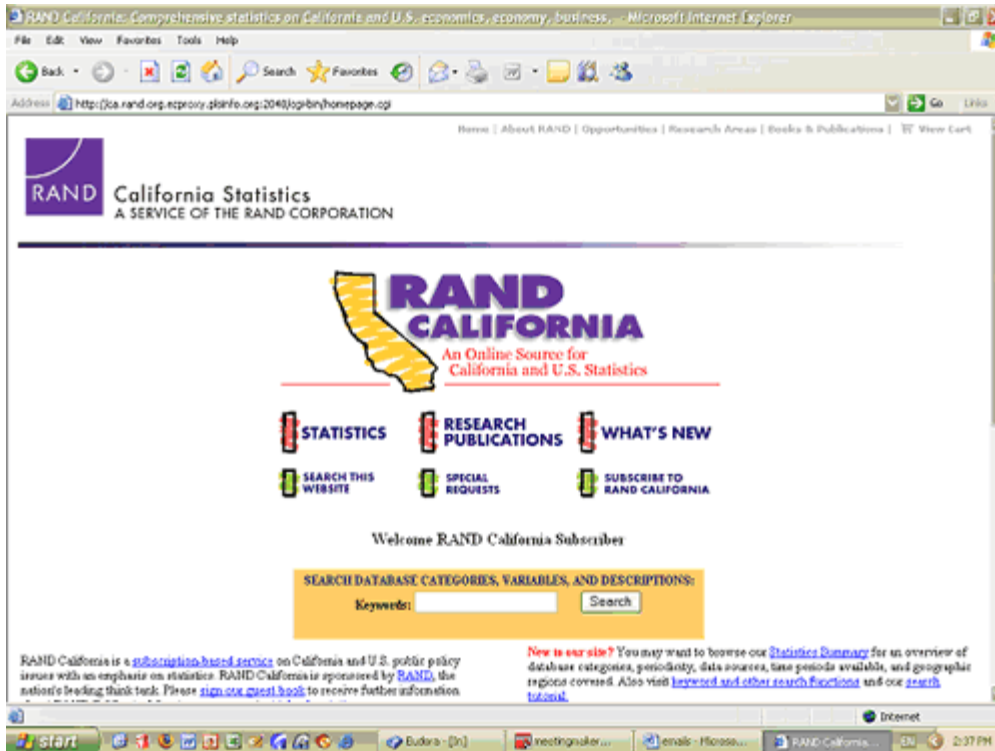
The CCL-EAR Committee completed a full review of the database in April 1999. There have been no significant changes to the search interfaced since the full review. Information is continuously added to the database as it becomes available. Below is a brief update. For in depth information about this database, please read the full review.

Overview:

RAND California, launched in early 1998, features a collection of statistics, an online library of research publications, bulletins on both State and Federal policy developments, and a monthly report on California's economy. RAND California maintains an extensive database on California, and its cities and counties, ranging from the economy to crime rates to school test scores. The database also includes Federal policy bulletins from the California Institute on national issues, and bi-monthly bulletins on State policy developments.

Information Database:

RAND California is a collection of several databases. Included are a California statistics database which pulls data from over 70 other statistical databases, as well as a number of other reports and bulletins on the a variety of economic and public policy related topics. The database collection offers a wealth of good information on economic and public policy topics. The source of statistical information is given for each search. RAND California is updated as reports become available. User can click on the "What's New" Button to view a list of new and/or updated content.



Search Interface:

There have been no significant changes to the search interface since the full review.

Excerpt from full review

I thought the search interface was pretty intuitive with a couple of search examples presented to give the researcher an idea of how to begin. Boolean searching was generally available. There was no keyword searching available for California Economic Reports and the keyword searching available for California Policy Bulletins is case sensitive. A search for "smoking and ban" brought up hits, whereas "SMOKING AND BAN" resulted in none. The keyword searching for California Institute publications was interrupted on a couple of occasions with the message "connection refused by server".

The interface is well-designed and easy to use, especially for browsing. But keyword searching capability is limited and often does not yield any results. I put in "immigration and illegal" as suggested in the example, and the search returned no results. The search term "illegal aliens" "illegal immigration" "homeless" did not fare any better.

The search interface is generally easy to use and intuitive. The inclusion of instructions on how to make multiple selections from the pull down menus is particularly helpful. One useful addition would be a true site search that would retrieve articles from all documents included in the database.