Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope

**Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope** are three databases published by Bureau van Dijk (BvD) which offer information on UK and European companies as well as banks worldwide. **All three databases use the same interface.** Following an introduction to each of the databases, this guide will then aim to get you started in using these resources. Towards the end of the guide details are given on where further help can be found as well as a brief mention of a number of other relevant databases.

1. Overview

**FAME (Financial Analysis Made Easy)**
Fame is a database which contains information on over 2.8 million (public and private) active companies in the UK and Ireland. Historical information on 4.2 million companies no longer active is also available. There is up to 10 years worth of information from each company. The data is provided by Jordans who source it from Companies House in the main (as well as from numerous other data providers).

**AMADEUS (Analyse Major Databases from European Sources)**
Amadeus is a database which contains financial information on 465,000 large and very large public and private companies in 43 European countries. There is up to 10 years worth of information for each company. The data is sourced and combined from over 35 expert and local information providers.

**BANKSCOPE**
Bankscope is a database containing information on over 30,000 public and private banks and financial institutions worldwide (including the top 8,000 EU banks, the top 14,000 North American banks and 1,000 Japanese banks). There is up to 16 years worth of information for each bank. The data is provided by Fitch Solutions who source it from filed balance sheet and income statements as well as notes from audited annual reports.

Fame and Amadeus include the following information:
- Company overview (including addresses and ID numbers)
- Industry / Activity details
- Financials (profile, profit/loss, balance sheet, and for Fame: cash flow)
- Ratios
- Ownership (shareholders and subsidiaries).

Bankscope includes information on:
- Bank overview
- Financials (balance sheet and income statement)
- Ratios (50 in total)
- Ratings (18 ratings provided by 4 agencies including Fitch, Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s ratings).

You can search these databases on a single criterion (e.g. company name), or on a combination of criteria. You can also compare companies to their peer groups and analyse the data, using the Financial Analysis Software that is included. Graphs and charts can be drawn and the data is easily downloaded into Microsoft Excel.
2. Accessing Library Material

To access all Library material, print or electronic, held at the University of Birmingham, please go to FindIt@Bham (http://findit.bham.ac.uk/). This new service replaces eLibrary and the Library Catalogue.

FindIt@Bham can be used to search for books, ebooks, journals, journal articles and databases (e.g. financial databases and marketing databases). On the home page, there is a drop down menu to the right of the search box to help you identify the information you require as quickly as possible. On the results screen, there are further options to refine your results.

It is recommended that you sign in first using your University (ADF) username and password, particularly if you want to search for journal articles and access databases. To access databases, such as Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope, click on the Find Databases link towards the top right of the screen.

Most electronic resources accessible via FindIt@Bham can be accessed from off-campus. Access off-campus is exactly the same as on-campus.

3. Searching the Databases

Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope can be searched easily by individual company (bank) name. Companies (or banks) matching one or more search criteria (from the hundreds of criteria available) can also be sought. The examples which follow are for Fame but, as all 3 databases use the same interface, the procedures can equally be applied to either Amadeus or Bankscope.

From FindIt@Bham > Find Databases, search for Fame, Amadeus or Bankscope and follow the link through to the database. You will be taken directly through to the homepage. For Fame, this looks as follows:

(a) Searching for a specific company

In the top search box of the home page which says: “Enter a company name, registered number or ticker” enter the company of interest and click on the New Search icon ( ).

The nearest matches will be returned on the next screen. Click on the match for the company you require in order to generate a report (see section 4(a)).
**Note** – Sometimes you will get several matches with the same name. To help choose the company you require use the data in the table which gives an overview of the companies that have been matched, including the latest accounts date, latest operating revenue (turnover) and number of employees.

**Note** – In Amadeus and Bankscope the table includes data on total assets, latest accounts date and country code. Also given is the consolidation code. Codes starting with a ‘C’ integrate into the statement of the mother bank the statements of all (or most of) its subsidiaries; codes starting with ‘U’ do not integrate into the statement of the mother bank all (or most of) the statements of its subsidiaries. For full definitions of the consolidation codes go to Help > Bankscope (from the top navigation bar) and search for ‘consolidation’.

(b) Searching for companies using one or more search criteria

Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope can be searched using one or more of hundreds of search criteria. These criteria can be selected from the middle of the home page and include:
- **Fame / Amadeus**: location, industry, financials, ratios and employees
- **Bankscope**: location, financials, ratios, ratings and accounting data

Some of the criteria may have further sub-menus that allow searching on more specific criteria. Selection of criteria is made in a number of ways including ticking the box(es) of interest and specifying upper and/or lower limits.

On selecting a criterion, you will be returned to the homepage and will see the criterion you have selected under the heading: ‘Search Strategy’. Further criteria can then be selected in the same way. The criteria under ‘Search Strategy’ will show the number of results that match each criteria as well as the number which match all of the criteria selected.

The Boolean logic combining the search criteria can be changed on this screen. Rather than the default of **1 AND 2 AND 3** (which means the companies returned will match all search criteria), the criteria can be changed to **1 OR 2 OR 3** (meaning the companies returned will match one or more of the search criteria, but not necessarily all).

(c) Example: Searching for companies using one or more search criteria

This example illustrates a multiple criteria search in order to identify all active electricity producing companies in the UK and Ireland with greater than 1,000 employees.

- **Click Industry > UK SIC (2007) Classification** from the homepage. On the next screen, scroll down to ‘35 Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’. Click the ‘+’ to reveal ‘351 Electricity power generation, transmission and distribution’. Click ‘+’ again to reveal ‘3511 Production of electricity’ and tick the box. The selection will appear in the right-hand box. Click ‘OK’ in the bottom right of the screen. You will be taken back to the home page where you should see your criterion under the ‘Search Strategy’ heading.

- **Click Number of Employees > Number of Employees for a Company**. Select the following:
  - A period: ‘last avail. year’
  - Search on ‘values’. **Minimum 1000**

Click ‘OK’ in the bottom right of the screen. You will once more be taken back to the home page where you should see your criterion displayed.
• Click on ‘View list of results’ to see the companies on the database which match the chosen search criteria.

4. Displaying the Results

If your search was for a specific company (as described in section 3(a)) you will automatically be taken through to the company report.

If the search was for companies that matched a number of search criteria (as described in sections 3(b) and 3(c)) then you will be taken through to a list of companies which match the criteria. From that list of companies you can click on any of the hyperlinked company names to be taken through to the corresponding company report.

The company report and list of results are described in this section.

(a) Company Report

The company report will display a mix of qualitative, financial and graphical information specific to one company.

In Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope you will arrive on the ‘Standard Report’ by default. In the case of Fame, a more detailed report can be obtained by changing the ‘Report Format’ (located in the right-hand menu) from ‘Standard Report’ to ‘Full Report’.

For all 3 resources the right-hand menu can be used to select particular sections of the report. This is particularly useful if you only require one part of the report and saves you scrolling through the complete contents of the report.

(b) Company List

The company list will display a list of companies matching a chosen search criteria. Data for a few variables for each company will be displayed.

By default the list is displayed in order of Operating Revenue (Turnover) for Fame and Amadeus; for Bankscope the results are arranged by Total Assets.

The results can be sorted by some of the other variables. Any of the variable headings which display the icon can be used to sort the results. Simply click this icon for the required variable to do this.

The variables for each company that are displayed can also be selected:
• Select ‘List Format’ > ‘New Format’ (located in the right-hand menu)
• From the list of ‘Options’, select the variables required by clicking in the check boxes to the left of the variable names. For some variables there is a ‘+’ symbol. Click on this to look for a more specific variable.
• Click ‘OK’ (clicking on the icon first will save the search to disk. The variables selected will displayed for each of the companies matching the search criteria.

Reports for any of the companies displayed can be accessed by selecting the hyperlinked company name.

5. Analysing the Results

(a) Peer Report

The key financials and ratios for a chosen company can be compared to other companies within the standard peer group.
Note – The standard peer group is defined by default as the companies with the same SIC code as the subject company and that have the closest turnover. Other ways of choosing the standard peer group can be explored within the ‘Options’ part of the peer report screen.

From the company report screen (section 4(a)), select ‘Peer Report’ (from the right-hand side menu) and then the type of output that you would like (e.g. table, bar chart, pie chart etc. An example for a bar chart can be seen below:

![Bar chart example](image)

There are many ways in which the display, currency, variables etc. that are displayed can be changed. These changes can be made by selecting the ‘Options’ hyperlink (located above the table or graphical output). In addition, for the graphical outputs some changes can be made using the left-hand menu.

(b) Peer Analysis

The key financials and ratios for a chosen group of companies can be compared.

Note – This differs from the Peer Report in that the user has chosen which companies are compared, rather than choosing a single company and using its pre-defined standard peer group.

Choose your companies using one or more search criteria (as described in sections 3(b) and 3(c)) and then select:

- ‘Peer Analysis’ > ‘New Analysis’ from the right-hand menu.
- The variable(s) that you are interested in and click ‘Next’
- The year(s) that you are interested in (these can be absolute or relative) and click ‘Next’
- The type of output(s) you require (e.g. table, pie chart, pie chart etc.) and click ‘Finish’.

Your results will be displayed. As for the Peer Report you can change what is displayed by using the ‘Options’ hyperlink and/or the left-hand menu in the case of graphical output.

(c) Other Analyses

There are several other analyses which can be performed including:

- **Segmentation**: allows a group of companies to be separated by up to two variables (e.g. location and a financial variable).
- **Aggregation**: sums up each financial variable for a group of companies.
- **Linear Regression**: a standard statistical technique which looks to find the relationship between two financial variables.
- **Map Analysis** (*Amadeus only*): plots geographically on a map a group of companies according to a specific variable.

These analyses can all be performed for a chosen group of companies.
Choose your companies using one or more search criteria (as described in sections 3(b) and 3(c)) and then select the appropriate analysis type from the right-hand menu (under the ‘Analysis’ heading; under the ‘Maps’ heading in the case of ‘Map Analysis’). Follow the on-screen, step-by-step instructions.

6. Outputting the Results

Results from most parts of Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope can be exported (in various formats: Word, Excel, PDF etc.) as well as e-mailed or printed. The icons for these three output options are as follows: and can be found towards the top of the screen.

7. Help

On the top navigator bar of Fame, Amadeus and Bankscope you will see a icon. This link provides access to some very useful pages showing how to use different parts of each of the products as well as a glossary and information on how various financial and ratio values have been calculated.

8. Further Help

Information Sources for the Birmingham Business School
The guide ‘Information Sources for the Birmingham Business School’ gives an overview of other key resources for the School: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/library/bbsresources.

Other Company / Financial Databases
You can find a guide entitled ‘Company Information’ on our website at: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/library/databases.

Information Appointments
If you need further help in using these resources you can book a session with the subject specialist in Library Services for the Birmingham Business School. Contact details at: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/library/busstudies.

Just Ask!
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