



**The Retail Planning Knowledge Base**  
**Introduction to the Bibliography on Retail Planning**

Anne Findlay and Leigh Sparks  
Institute for Retail Studies  
Faculty of Management  
University of Stirling  
STIRLING FK9 4LA, SCOTLAND  
Tel: (01786) 467384  
Fax: (01786) 465290  
E-mail: [Leigh.Sparks@stir.ac.uk](mailto:Leigh.Sparks@stir.ac.uk)  
[a.m.findlay@stir.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.findlay@stir.ac.uk)  
Website [www.irs.stir.ac.uk](http://www.irs.stir.ac.uk)

Revised April 2006

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND**

This knowledge base has been compiled at the instigation of the National Retail Planning Forum. It is intended to bridge the gap between practitioner and academic. A study of the material itself is a reflection of the direction of research and of the areas which have interested those in the subject area. A wide range of sources was used in compiling the knowledge base and a range of different libraries were used in the research process. Although there will undoubtedly be other items which could have been included it is hoped that the material presented can fulfil the joint aims of being representative of research in the subject area and of increasing awareness of the available research base.

### **SCOPE**

The aim of this knowledge base is to present practitioners, academics and others interested in the field of retail planning with a reasonably comprehensive knowledge base on the literature since the 1990's. This has been a period of increasing research in the field with the number of articles appearing in the field annually almost doubling over the period in question. The knowledge base has intentionally taken a broad view of the subject so including material that is both applied and theoretical. In addition it has tried to identify items which have been formative in influencing thinking on retail planning. Equally it seeks to represent all areas of relevance from town centre management to attitudes to street design and public space, to shopping behaviour and aspects of the shopping environment. A few items have been included from outside the UK or from outside the period as it was felt that they were the only items on a particular topic or they contributed to understanding a particular development. It is hoped that an awareness of the variety of studies pertinent to retail planning will be useful in attempts to understand thinking on retailing from the perspectives of developers, planners and consumers.

This 2006 Retail Planning Knowledge Base is a revision of the Bibliography of Retail Planning integrates the 2002 version of the bibliography with the annual updates for material published in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

In the remit, the material to be included in the knowledge base was defined as that in the public domain. Thus material which clients can 'commission' from consultancies has been excluded. In addition the publications from local authorities have been largely excluded. Some of these are within the public domain. However, considerable confusion exists and it was not possible to compile a comprehensive list. In addition frequently they are data collection exercises rather than research. Books, journals, published reports, conference proceedings and dissertations have been included.

For each item the bibliographic information is given. This is followed by a brief abstract of the key aspects of the article. The abstracts have been written specifically for the purpose of this knowledge base. They, therefore, focus particularly on the aspects of the article pertinent to retail planning. The abstract attempts to give some idea of the depth of the article and the nature of the research reported. It does not, however, give a critique of the material.

## **ORGANISATION**

The knowledge base has been arranged in 11 sections. The first section presents General Works. The second section is entitled Theoretical Material. It includes articles and books on location models, data sources, techniques, models of location and GIS. The third section is concerned with Retail Formats. Here studies on particular types of retail format such as superstores, warehouse parks, factory outlets, warehouse clubs and shopping centres are grouped. Retail Location is the subject of the fourth section. It includes material on regional shopping centres, out of town retailing, neighbourhood shopping areas and town centre shopping. The fifth section focuses on Planning Practice. Items on the different versions of PPG6 would be included here alongside studies of planning gain, use classes, structure plans and impact assessments. This section also includes some of the government research and reports. A large number of entries from the House of Commons can be traced on retail planning topics. Only the key items could be included here. Section 6 features material on Consumer Culture. This comprises shopping patterns, the way people think about shopping, attitudes to different shopping environments, crime and the retail experience. The seventh section considers Urban Environments and deals with topics such as the role of the street, public space in shopping environments, town centre management, marketing of places, pedestrianisation and property issues. There follows a brief section which includes key items on retail planning from the 1980's. This is intended as a brief rather than comprehensive section as other bibliographic materials are available. In the next section a few items from Europe and North America have been included. The purpose of this section is twofold. First it is intended to give the reader a brief introduction to the literature and the likely sources of material on the topic. It is a starting point. Secondly it gives a small insight into the topics of concern in these areas which contrast with the UK experience.

## **LIBRARIES, ACCESSING RESOURCES AND RETAIL PLANNING**

All the material listed in the knowledge base has been sourced and is available in the UK library system. Material published in the UK system should be held in the copyright libraries (British Library, London; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh; Library of Trinity College, Dublin; University Library, Cambridge; University Library, Oxford). This includes journal articles. The British Library houses the largest collection of UK business information at the British Library Science Reference and Information Service in London. For access to material at a more local level university libraries provide a good source. Access to these varies for external readers. Most permit outside users to read material within the library but do not permit borrowing and may restrict access to on-line material. They may charge for use but a variety of user categories usually exists. Their coverage will depend on their own subject biases. The larger planning schools subscribe to the main planning journals and universities with geography departments will take a selection of the other journals in that field. Universities with management or business schools will be likely to have journals in these fields. Not all planning schools have a retail interest and only a few universities such as Cardiff happen to cover all the subject areas. It was not possible to do a complete survey of libraries for all cited journals. It is possible to check your local library catalogues on the Internet.

Specialist collections on retailing are held at the Oxford Institute of Retail Management and at Stirling University in the Institute for Retail Studies. In addition there are organisations with their own libraries such as the Royal Town Planning

Institute and the Planning Exchange. Many consultancies and companies have their own libraries. The range of material which they hold usually far exceeds that held by planning authorities and is a testimony to the need for market awareness. For the most part there is no public access to these libraries.

Searching for material in libraries can be done by use of author, title or keyword in most cases. If you wish to search by keyword it is worth noting that in the field of retail planning the vocabulary is particularly poor. The term planning arises in a multiplicity of circumstances and is in itself of no use except within an already specialised catalogue. The term retail is useful but obviously is wider than the desired research focus. The term shopping is in fact widely used on some databases and catalogues and where used probably is of more help than the term retail.

All subjects claim that libraries distribute the material in their field of interest and that the classification scheme does not do justice to their subject. This is no less true of retail planning which may well be distributed between business, planning and geography. In a more specialist planning library the material on retailing is likely in the most common schemes to be collected together.

Given the problems of terminology this knowledge base should provide a much needed focused approach to the field.

Since the first edition of this bibliography there has been a massive expansion of web based resources. Firstly many journals are now available on-line, although normally only by subscription. Such subscriptions are help by libraries and research institutes and usually permit downloading of articles directly. Secondly there are major on-line databases for searching for references on a particular topic. Key bases include Web of Science, Infotrac and GEOBASE. These each offer different literature bases with Web of Science the most comprehensive, GEOBASE the most academic and Infotrac offering references from the more topical literature. There are also bases offering financial data on the retail sector. The government databases provide a very accessible source of data. Users are referred to web site listing for details. Thirdly on-line sources include web sites for the many organisations participating in retail planning issues from planning offices, consultants, interest groups, professional organisations, government offices and research institutes. A selection have been listed in the Web Links Base. These vary in what they offer. Some offer downloading of material from the site and others are subscription use only. One cautionary point to note is that these pages are constantly changing and so some documents which are available on-line at a particular point in time may not stay on the site as they may be replaced by newer documents or reports. Users are advised to check regularly the sites which interest them most. Fourthly the increased use of the web has facilitated greater accessibility of some planning authority documents and certainly offers new opportunities for informal contact and interchange of ideas. The availability of material via web sites undoubtedly facilitates the speed with which data and research may become available as well as increasing awareness of current research. However due to differing legal deposit regulations for on-line publications some material (such as GOAD plans) are no longer available via the national libraries. On-line searching can absorb a lot of time but it is hoped that the listing included with the knowledge base should avoid the need for the use of search engines which do not readily deliver useful research on topics such as retail planning.

