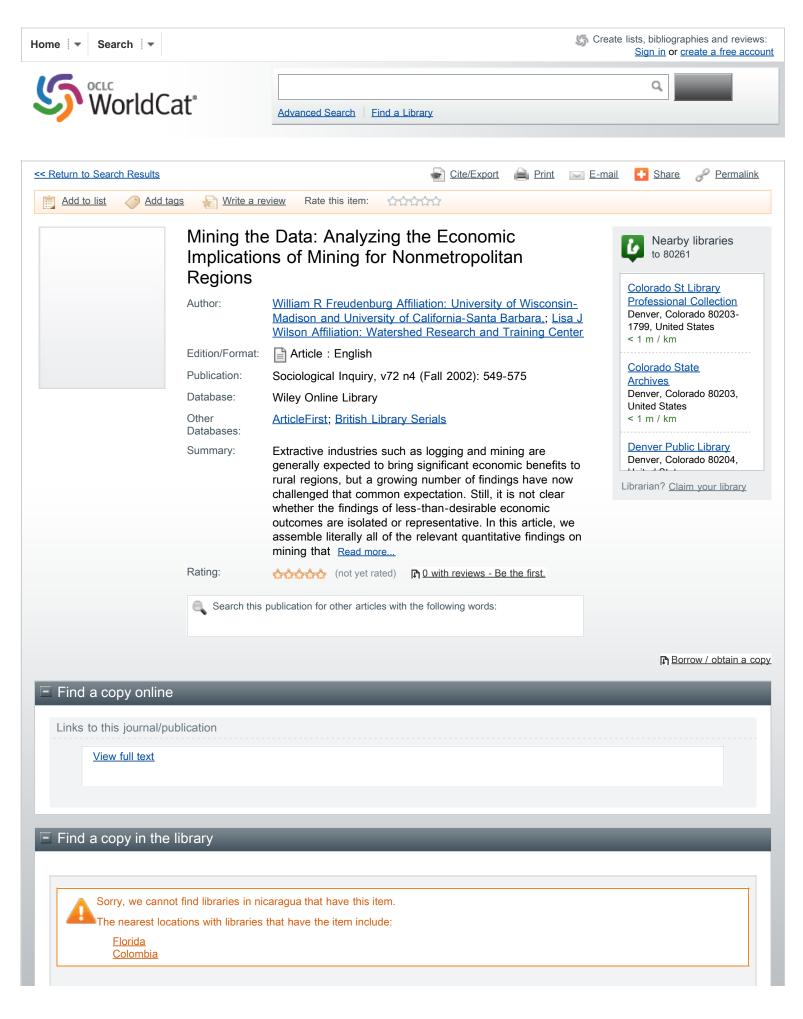
Mining the Data: Analyzing the Economic Implications of Mining for Nonmetropolitan Regions (Article, 2002) [WorldCat.org]



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All Authors / Contributors:	William R Freudenburg Affiliation: University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of California-Santa Barbara.; Lisa J Wilson Affiliation: Watershed Research and Training Center
SSN:	0038-0245
anguage Note:	English
Inique Identifier:	5156733933
lotes:	William R. Freudenburg Dehlsen Professor of Environment and Society, Environmental Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106freudenb@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Awards:	
Abstract:	

of rigor, we limit the assessment to cases in which strictly nonmetropolitan mining regions are compared against other nonmetropolitan regions and/or against those regions' own experiences over time. Overall, 301 findings meet the criteria for inclusion. Contrary to the long-established assumptions, but consistent with more recent critiques, roughly half of all published findings indicate negative economic outcomes in mining communities, with the remaining findings being split roughly evenly between favorable and neutral/indeterminate ones. Positive findings are more likely to be associated with incomes than with poverty or (especially) unemployment rates, and they are more likely to come from the western United States, where much of the mining involves relatively large, new coal strip mines. Over half of all positive findings come from the years prior to 1982. In virtually all other categories, the plurality or majority of findings have been negative. When the patterns of findings are subjected to one-sample means tests, the only way to produce a significantly positive outcome is by combining all neutral/indeterminate findings with the positive ones, while focusing exclusively on incomes; by contrast, in the case of poverty or unemployment rates—as well as for the overall body of findings—the results are consistently and significantly negative, whether the neutral/indeterminate

findings are combined with negative ones or omitted from the equations altogether. Until or unless future studies produce dramatically different findings, there appears to be no scientific basis for accepting the widespread, "obvious" assumption that

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