Welcome to Cunningham Library Update

In this issue of Cunningham Library Update, find out about the Digital Education Research Network (DERN) and our research reviews on digital technologies in education. Pru Mitchell considers the role of a research library, and Siân Besselaar looks at the priorities and practicalities of collecting web-based research on Indigenous education.

Translating digital research into practice
Pru Mitchell, Manager Information Services

What is the role of a research library in the 21st century?
The Australian Libraries Gateway (National Library of Australia) describes a research library as providing:

- the major published source materials required for postgraduate and independent research;
- defined access to a very extensive collection of owned or remotely accessed electronic resources, including bibliographic tools, texts, data sets, and journals; and
- older material retained and systematically preserved to serve the needs of historical research.

In some ways this is business as usual for Cunningham Library. For more than 80 years we have been collecting the key documents on Australian educational research and getting them into the hands of researchers at ACER and beyond. Cunningham Library has an additional responsibility of indexing Australian educational research literature and producing the Australian Education Index on behalf of the global research community.

If the ultimate purpose of research is the application of findings to improve learning, research libraries also have a responsibility to reach out and engage practitioners in research. We have an imperative to help promote and ‘translate’ research for use by educators. To this end, Cunningham Library is leading ACER’s translational research project as part of the Centre for Educational Policy and Practice acer.edu.au/epp.

We welcome partners from across the education sector in this project.
Indigenous education: capturing web documents
Siân Besselaar, Acquisitions

One thing that impressed me when I started work at the Cunningham Library was the large number of web documents catalogued in the Library’s collection of educational research resources. Instead of being scattered across a plethora of websites, the Cunningham Library has collated these documents and created searchable catalogue records with links to the online documents. There are reports, literature reviews, conference papers and datasets.

The library also recommends these documents to the National Library of Australia for archiving in Australia’s web archive, Pandora pandora.nla.gov.au. This means the documents are assigned a permanent URL managed by the National Library, which avoids link rot.

Many of the Library’s web documents relate to Indigenous education. These are fed into Cunningham Library’s Indigenous education database, Learning Ground http://acer.ac/lg, where they are indexed along with other relevant publications such as journal articles, books and book chapters. The database provides a great starting point for policymakers, educators and graduate students searching on any areas relevant to indigenous education. Some areas of interest in Learning Ground include documents on school community relationships, socioeconomic background and student experience.

Browse web documents in Learning Ground: http://acer.ac/lgdocs

The adjacent images are of documents licensed from the Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence:


What’s hot? ICT in education

The links below will take you to research and information on the topic of information and communication technology (ICT) in education. Some results will include links to full documents. Library members can request articles of interest from the library.

Browse books and reports in the Cunningham Library Catalogue http://acer.ac/libict

Browse research in EdResearch Online http://acer.ac/edrict

Browse in ACEReSearch http://acer.ac/acerict
Digital Education Research Network
Helen Galatis, Research Fellow

Given the money invested in digital technologies in Australian education in the past decade what does the research say about its impact on learning?

ACER’s Digital Education Research Network (DERN) seeks to provide educators with the answers to this complex question. Each week DERN subscribers receive the latest research reports and articles as well as conference information and news stories relevant to ICT in education. A review of key research about the use of ICT in education is also published regularly, and DERN maintains a categorised research collection of reports and journal articles that have been summarised and indexed so you can find all resources around a topic.

Subscribe to DERN and keep up-to-date on digital technologies https://dern.acer.edu.au/subscription

Cunningham Library research
These recent papers outline findings from projects involving Cunningham Library and Information Services staff.

- Developing a schema for describing the contents of the Office for Learning and Teaching’s Resource Library
  Philip Hider, Ying-Hsang Liu, Carole Gerts, Carla Daws, Barney Dalgarno, Sue Bennett, Barbara Spiller, Robert Parkes, Pat Knight, Pru Mitchell, Raylee Macaulay & Lauren Carlson
  DOI: 10.1080/00048623.2015.1030846

- Towards a new library of resources for higher education learning and teaching

- What’s so hard about Evidence-based Practice? Step 1: Finding educational research
  Pru Mitchell, Synergy 13(1) 2015.

Out and about
Cunningham Library staff will be attending and presenting at the following events in the coming month. Please get in touch if we are in your area.

8 August 2015 Western Australian School Library Association State Conference 2015, Perth
http://www.wasla.asn.au

16-18 August 2015 ACER Research Conference, Melbourne
http://www.acer.edu.au/rc/overview

28 August 2015 Celebrating Deaf Education in Victoria
Melbourne
http://www.deafeducation.vic.edu.au

12 September 2015 ALIA Schools Digital curation
Melbourne
http://www.alia.org.au/groups/alia-schools

17 September 2015 Digital Education Research Network Assessment of digital literacy workshop
Melbourne
http://dern.acer.edu.au
Library staff profile

Jenny Barnes

Jenny is the face of the Cunningham Library's membership services and often the first port of call for those contacting the Library. As well as sourcing documents and information for staff, students and external users, she contributes to the development of ACER eSearch and the management of the library's journal collection. Jenny is a qualified library technician and works within the Library's dissemination team.

Discovery Service at ACER

Search: opac.acer.edu.au

Cunningham Library has been trialling a discovery service which searches from a single point across our catalogue, databases, research repository and other content. Try this service by searching on “digital literacy” or any other topic of interest. Then use options from the left hand side of the result list to limit references further. Options to limit results include date, source types and full-text.

Tell us if you found our discovery search helpful – survey at http://acer.ac/surveyeds or email comments to library@acer.edu.au

1. Were the results relevant to your search topic?
2. Did you experience any problems?

Join us

Join the Cunningham Library

Pro rata fee for membership from August to December 2015:

School membership $147 (GST inclusive)
Individual membership $109 (GST inclusive)
Corporate membership Contact library

Membership has its privileges

• Daily education news service delivered direct to your inbox.
• Remote access to selected online journals and databases.
• Friendly assistance with seeking information and literature searching.
• Loan of hard copy items from the Cunningham Library collection.
• Copies of electronic or print documents sourced from the Cunningham Library collection.
• 10 per cent discount on all ACER Press titles.
• 10 per cent discount on all ACER professional learning workshops.

www.acer.edu.au/library/become-a-member

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