Educational Research

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This issue focuses on educational research. Research is as varied as the education systems upon which it focuses. There is large scale quantitative research, small scale qualitative studies such as ethnographies and in classroom action research. Indeed, all education practitioners are potential researchers as they try new teaching strategies, modify behaviours and basically work out what works and what does not. The conducting of research is of little consequence unless the results are shared.

I write this a month before the Australian Computers in Education Conference in Adelaide, an event that brings together some of the best educators and researchers from around Australasia. Events such as this are more than just opportunities to hear about what is new, they are times to network, share ideas and overcome the insular nature of many of our education systems. This parochial approach to education seems to be a function of the size of our country, the political segmentation into States and a multitude of education systems all trying to reinvent the wheel. We need to break down these barriers to effective communication and share our knowledge for the benefit of all Australians. ACCE, the journal, the national conference and the Internet can help us to do just that.

The World Wide Web is often hailed as being the educational equivalent to the second coming and it is easy to forget that it is just a technology. It is the content and teaching strategies that the World Wide Web allows us to share that are consequential to education. Another technology that facilitates sharing is the internet mailing list or List-serv. In Internet folklore there is a saying that “on the internet no one knows that you are a dog”. One can paraphrase this to be “on a list-serv no-one cares if you are from Halls Creek or Parramatta, a university lecturer or kindergarten teacher, an expert or a novice.” You are all part of an on-line community of fellow educators supporting and helping each other.

This issue contains a cumulative index of the articles from the first 12 volumes of AEC, bar Vol 1. no. 2 and Vol. 2 no. 2 which are missing from our collection, (if you have them please send me an email or give me a call). The second issue from each year will in future contain an index for that year on its back page. Information such as this will provide a ready reference for any research previously done in your teaching area and/or fields of interests.

The second issue for 1998 will contain reports on how each state is integrating computers into their education systems.