

An Introduction to Open Source Journals

BETSY DIAMANT-COHEN AND TESS PRENDERGAST

Welcome to our fifth research column. Over the past four issues, we have aimed to provide readers with useful web links and information that support our practice and work with children and families in our communities. In tune with the theme of this issue, this column focuses on diversity.

Developed nations like the United States and Canada are home to an increasing populace that holds the same rights of access to library services, programs, and information as everyone else. For them and for us, there are open-source journals, accessible to all because they are available online for free and *without a subscription*. Most have articles that can be easily and quickly downloaded in PDF format. As practitioners, we recognize the need for research to be easily accessible, for library visitors and for ourselves. Proposals, articles, and budget requests often need support from research findings.

There are many open-source journals with content that aligns well with our interests in child development, literacy, and library services to children. Here we feature some of these, including some annotations of current studies that reflect the topic of diversity.

Asia-Pacific Journal of Research in Early Childhood, www.pecerajournal.com

This peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal is published by the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association. It reports and shares results of studies by early childhood scholars in the Pacific area. Published three times per year, it includes research reviews, critiques, empirical studies, and studies relating research to practice in early childhood settings.

Sample article: “Evidence-Based Practice, Professionalism and Respect for Diversity: A Tense Relation.” Originally delivered as a keynote address at an international early childhood conference, author Michel Vandebroek contends that quality matters in early childhood education as do responses to diversity, which must necessarily differ from site to site while acknowledging the difficulties inherent in balancing respect for diversity with professionalism.

Link: www.pecerajournal.com/?page=5&a=26922

Early Childhood Research and Practice, <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/>

This peer-reviewed resource sponsored by the Early Childhood and Parenting (ECAP) Collaborative at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign publishes research reports, literature reviews, essays, interviews, reflections, and commentary on emerging trends and issues by early childhood scholars and

The screenshot shows the ECRP website interface. At the top right, there are language options for 'español' and 'chinese'. The main header features the ECRP logo and the text 'EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH & PRACTICE'. Below the logo, it lists the Editor (Lilian G. Katz) and Associate Editors (Jean Mendoza, Susan Fowler, and Kevin Dolan). It also states 'Established February 27, 1999' and 'ISSN 1524-5039'. A tagline reads '...a peer-reviewed multilingual journal on the development, care, and education of young children'. The main content area has a 'Welcome, ECRP Reader!' section with a message about reaching 3 million readers and a photo of three editors: Lilian Katz, Jean Mendoza, and Susan Fowler. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links: 'Current Issue: Volume 16 Numbers 1 & 2', 'Past Issues', 'Beyond This Issue', 'Search ECRP', 'Sign up for the Email Newsletter', 'Find us on Facebook', 'About ECRP', 'Sponsoring ECRP', 'Information for Authors', and 'ECRP Survey'. There is also a 'Share' button and a link to 'Mirar esta página en español'.

practitioners from around the world. Areas emphasized are classroom practice, curriculum, ethics, teacher preparation, higher education, policy, and parent participation. This journal has been published in both English and Spanish since 2004 and now has several articles available in Chinese.

Sample article: “Hispanic Families’ Perspectives on Using a Bilingual Vocabulary Kit to Enhance Their Prekindergarten Children’s Vocabulary Development.” In this qualitative research study, three Spanish-speaking families of preschoolers were given literacy kits with English and Spanish language materials. In face-to-face interviews conducted both before and after receiving the kits, the researchers explored participants’ home literacy practices. All of the families found the kits to be at least somewhat useful, all participants appreciated having the opportunity to choose the language in which they conducted the activities, and the kits were found to positively impact family literacy activities overall.

Link: <http://ecrp.illinois.edu/v13n2/query.html>

School Library Research: Research Journal of the American Association of School Librarians, www.ala.org/aasl/slr

This is a scholarly, refereed research journal that promotes and publishes original research about the management, implementation, and evaluation of school library programs. Although the material may be read and downloaded for free, it is subject to copyright by the American Library Association and may be reproduced only for noncommercial purposes.

Sample article: “U.S. Students, Poverty, and School Libraries: What Results of the 2009 Program for International Student Assessment Tell Us.” Author Denise Adkins describes research regarding school libraries. While her study indicates that adequate school libraries are essential for leveling the playing field between poor and wealthy students, she also states that overall policy needs to shift in order to effect necessary changes in schooling.

Link: www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslpubsandjournals/slr/vol17/SLR_USStudentsPoverty_V17.pdf

Language and Literacy, <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/langandlit>

Hosted by the University of Alberta, this is the peer-reviewed journal of the Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada of

School Library Research (SLR)



School Library Research (ISSN: 2165-1019) is the scholarly refereed research journal of the American Association of School Librarians. It is the successor to *School Library Media Research* (ISSN: 1523-4320) and *School Library Media Quarterly Online*.

The purpose of *School Library Research* is to promote and publish high quality original research concerning the management, implementation, and evaluation of school library programs. The journal will also emphasize research on instructional theory, teaching methods, and critical issues relevant to school libraries and school librarians.

SLR seeks to distribute major research findings worldwide through both electronic publication and linkages to substantive documents on the Internet. The primary audience for SLR includes academic scholars, school librarians, instructional specialists and other educators who strive to provide a constructive learning environment for all students and teachers.

SLR is indexed by [The Education Full Text Database](#) by EBSCO/Wilson and by the [The Education Resources Information Center \(ERIC\)](#).

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the Canadian Society for Studies in Education. Published twice a year, this journal emphasizes research relating to the nature, function, and use of language and literacy in schools and communities across the lifespan.

The Looking Glass: New Perspectives on Children’s Literature, www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/ojs/index.php/tlg

This electronic journal about children’s literature combines an interest in the traditional with an eye to the modern. In addition to academic peer-reviewed pieces, articles also include general analysis and commentary as well as light and quirky observations. Readers and contributors include librarians, academics, teachers, parents, and anyone else interested in the children’s literature. Since July 2007, it has been hosted at the La Trobe University in Australia.



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