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Research Announcements

International Surveys

The Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), now being carried out in Canada and in many other countries, is the follow-up to the [Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey](#) (ALLS, 2003). Like its predecessors, ALLS and IALS (International Literacy Survey, 1994), it is being coordinated by the [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#). In addition to prose and document literacy (now merged into one category) numeracy and problem-solving, this survey measures Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments (PS-TRE), which is how people solve the types of problems they encounter when using information and communication technologies. Results from PIAAC are expected in 2013. Twenty-seven countries, including Canada, are participating.

For more information:

Ontario Literacy Coalition. (2011). "Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments". *Essential Skills Bulletin* (4), retrieved September 19, 2011, from http://www.on.literacy.ca/themes/olc/esbulletin/2011/es_bulletin2011_4.pdf

PIAAC Expert Group in Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments (2009), "PIAAC Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments: A Conceptual Framework", *OECD Education Working Papers*, No. 36, OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/220262483674>

Keywords: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills

CUPE Announces *Reading Our Rights: Labour and Literacy* Project

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has announced a project in which they will gather workers' stories of literacy in their lives and their experiences of labour union efforts to act on literacy needs and issues. They will feature these stories in videos, displays and an updated edition of the book, *A Quest for Learning: The Canadian Labour Movement and Worker Literacy Education*." See <http://cupe.ca/literacy/reading-rights-labour-literacy> for more information.

Keywords: Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE); Labour education

Research Reports

Assessment

Eaton, Sarah Elaine (2011). *Portfolios to Assess Literacy and Second Language: An annotated bibliography*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/eaton/portfolios/portfolios.pdf>

This annotated bibliography on the use of portfolios as an assessment tool in ESL and literacy learning includes practical classroom resources, scholarly articles, research reports, online resources and video and multimedia. The resource is intended for teaching professionals and researchers.

Keywords: Bibliographies; English as an additional language (EAL); Portfolios

Family Literacy

Tantramar Family Resource Centre (2011). *Learning It Together: Our Community Talks About Family Literacy*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/lcnb/learn_together/learn_together.pdf

Eighteen sociology students at Mount Alison University worked with the Tantramar Family Resource Centre (TFRC) of Sackville, New Brunswick, to create a research project looking at the ways in which families experience and define literacy, their use of literacy resources, and ways in which community literacy services could better serve their needs. The researchers completed a literature review on family literacy before interviewing seven lower-income local parents and seven service providers. The report describes the research and the findings. It includes recommendations to make literacy programs more accessible to lower-income families, including flexible hours, childcare, and help with transportation costs.

Keywords: New Brunswick, Literature reviews, Poverty

Learning Technology

Clark, Bea (2011). *Blended Delivery: A Literature Review*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from http://www.nald.ca/library/research/csc/movtech_review/movtech_review.pdf

Clark, Bea (2011). *Blended Delivery: Report of Survey Results*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from http://www.nald.ca/library/research/csc/movtech_report/movtech_report.pdf

“Blended delivery”, a mix of learning environments which includes learning mediated by communications and digital technologies, is increasingly being adopted in adult upgrading (AU) and literacy and basic skills (LBS) programs at Ontario’s colleges of applied arts and technology. The [College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading](#) (CSC) initiated the *Blended Delivery: Moving Technology into the AU/LBS Classroom* project to provide their Academic Upgrading managers and faculty resources and information to evaluate the merits of blended learning, or undertake blended learning, in an informed manner. The research included a literature review, surveys of teachers and students and a pilot project. They have published the literature review and the survey results.

Keywords: Ontario; Literature reviews; Post-secondary education

National Programs and Policy – UK – Skills for Life

Inquiry into Work, Society and Lifelong Literacy: Report of the inquiry into adult literacy in England <http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Literacy%20Inquiry%20-%20Full%20report-WEB.pdf>

In our last scan we reported that [NIACE](#) was coordinating the [Independent Inquiry into Adult and Youth literacy](#). The initiative is in fact called the Inquiry into Adult Literacy in England. They have published a report on the current state of adult literacy in England after ten years of Skills for Life. While the report does not directly evaluate the Skills for Life government strategy, it finds that a lot of work remains to be done both in helping those adults with literacy difficulties and in preventing these problems from being passed down between generations.

Keywords: Adult Literacy; National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE); Skills for Life; United Kingdom

Poverty

Tri-County Literacy Network (TCLN) (2010). *Linking Adult Literacy to Poverty Reduction*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from <http://library.nald.ca/research/item/9623>

The project summarized in this report aimed to help Windsor-Essex Ontario Works and the Tri-County Literacy Network to collaborate to better serve people living in poverty. It involved locating adult literacy projects related to poverty reduction in order to determine best practices, identifying relevant resources, getting literacy and basic skills (LBS) agencies to conduct self-assessments on the extent to which they used best practices, generating a strategic plan, and an evaluation of the project.

Keywords: Program evaluation; Surveys

Keywords

Aboriginal peoples
Adult education
Apprenticeship
Assistive technology
Book donations
Book reviews
Call for proposals
Case studies
Children's development
Children's literacy
Communication technology
Community literacy
Conferences
Digital skills
Disabilities
Easy to Read materials
Embedding
E-learning
English as an additional language (EAL)
Essential skills
Evaluation
Events
Family Literacy
'Financial literacy'
Funders
Government policy
Health education
Health literacy
Health literacy curriculum
Immigrants
Informal learning
Labour education

Language learning
Learning disabilities
Libraries
Literacy organizations
Literacy promotion
Longitudinal studies
Mental health
Newsletters
Online portals
Periodicals
Pilot projects
Policy
Portfolios
Post-secondary education
Prison
Professional Development
Professionalization
Publications
Reading
Research reports
Socioeconomic conditions
Teachers
Transformational learning
Webinars
Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills (WLES)
Workshops
Youth

Name keywords:

ABC Life Literacy Canada
Alberta
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
Australia

Research Scan: September 2011

British Columbia	Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES)
Canadian Apprenticeship Forum	Ontario
Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment	Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC)
Canadian Council on Learning (CCL)	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Canadian Library Association (CLA)	Prince Albert Literacy Network
Canadian Society for Training and Development (CSTD)	People, Words & Change
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)	Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)
Centre for Workplace Skills	Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC)
China	United States
Collaborative Development Approaches (CODA)	
CMEC	
Community Literacy Ontario (CLO)	
Family Literacy Day (FLD)	
Frontier College	
Good Reads [series]	
Grass Roots Press	
Health Literacy Missouri (HLM)	
Health Literacy Month	
Health Literacy Out Loud (HLOL)	
Learn Canada 2020	
Learn@Work Week	
Learning Progressions series	
Lifespeak Inc.	
LINCS	
Literacy Now	
Manitoba	
National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)	
National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)	
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	
New Brunswick	
Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network	