

Notes: In Pursuit of Adventist Education Research

Project Rationale

While several [Adventist research centers](#) exist and many articles and dissertations have been published in various ways, no comprehensive listing of all research on Adventist education has been found by [CIRCLE](#). Easier access to all prior studies would inform strategic planning for Adventist education and future research on Adventist education.

Funding

In January 2010, the [General Conference Office of Education](#) funded a [CIRCLE](#) project proposal to gather information about all theses and dissertations, faculty and organizational research on any aspect of Adventist education. Findings would be published 1) online through [CIRCLE](#), 2) on a CD distributed freely at General Conference Session 2010, and 3) on CDs available through libraries on Adventist college/university campuses.

Sources

Research was gathered in the following ways:

1. Education directors and superintendents and every Adventist college or university for which email addresses were available through the Adventist yearbook were emailed requesting any information on Adventist education research in their region through the past 100 years.
2. Over 2,000 Andrews University, La Sierra University and Loma Linda University dissertations were reviewed, as well as others through Proquest Digital Dissertations and academic journal databases online with keyword 'Adventist'.
3. Unpublished and informal reports available through CIRCLE and the Journal of Adventist Education were added.
4. Full text was saved wherever free, and information about where to procure full text is included for copyrighted publications.

Inclusion Criteria

Broad parameters were set for this first listing, with the focus on finding all known research on Adventist education.

1. No limits were set on date of research or language. While one study dates back to 1952, most studies have been completed since 1990. Spanish and English studies are included at this point, and those of other languages are welcome as the indexing of studies continues through [CIRCLE](#).
2. No inclusion parameters were set on research design. Most studies found were empirical, with the number of mixed methods and qualitative studies increasing in recent years. Most seminary studies were beyond the scope of this project focusing on the educational process in the Seventh-day Adventist school system, but those focusing on the development of curriculum for theological education, pastoral training or religious education were included.
3. Every study included one or more Adventist schools, colleges or universities in some way: a) groups of people such as students, teachers, support staff, education leaders, board members, parents, grandparents, affiliated church members or other stakeholders, or b) studies of facilities, curriculum, safety, technology and other educational resources or support structures. Many studies included other educational settings or groups outside of the Adventist education setting. Advisors or authors of dissertations and theses were contacted when available information seemed to indicate

one or more Adventist education institutions were included in a study, but unnamed to preserve confidentiality.

4. Because numerous studies have been reported to local education boards or through informal publications, this project searched beyond the confines of peer-reviewed academic literature. Where possible, contact information for recent research teams have been included to facilitate communication that may be helpful to future research.

Research Tools: Endnote & Email

Endnote X3, software designed to manage and publish bibliographies, was used to organize entries in this project. Standard forms were selected to make sorting and searching possible on several key fields. Emerging themes became the 13 groups into which all entries were organized. The label field was used to further categorize entries into three levels: 1) elementary and secondary, 2) tertiary and seminary, and 3) general education studies. All studies at this point are either in English or Spanish, as indicated in the language field.

The full endnotes library has been included on this CD for use by Adventist researchers and graduate students who are using [Endnote](#) (i.e. you have to purchase your own copy of the software to be able to access the Endnote library and attached files on this CD). Bibliographies on this CD cite references in APA 5th style, but with Endnote, researchers can manage in-text referencing and reference lists in many other style requirements, or create their own.

Hundreds of emails facilitated many connections, for which we are truly thankful – too many to name in person. Forwarded emails increased awareness of this project, even when responses were limited. *Copies of this CD can be made for Adventist educators in your region, on condition that 1) no changes are made to any part of the content or credits, and 2) no charge is made – freely you have received, freely give!*

Continuing the Collection Online

All entries on this CD are also available online through CIRCLE's Adventist Education Research in the same topical collections used for the bibliographies. We hope this project will prompt ongoing contributions to this collection online.

While ever effort was made to find research, this is only a start. We invite all readers to contribute online and freely share copies of this CD with colleagues who share the vision and mission of continuing the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ.

Recommendations

Over 250 hours on this project prompts suggestions for future research on Adventist education:

1. Include 'Seventh-day Adventist' in your keywords, even if you do not identify an Adventist entity in any part of your writing. Be sure the institution/office submitting your study to an online database knows this too.
2. Educational leaders are urged to inspire EVERY Adventist school at every level to keep their contact information current in the [Adventist yearbook](#). This one move would do more to facilitate research on Adventist education, communication of results, and dissemination of Adventist education resources in general.
3. Publish at least one article on each research project, preferably in an academic journal. Help other Adventist educators find your work by contributing an abstract of your study and information about fuller publications to [CIRCLE](#).