

Connecting Adventist Teachers to Enhance Education

The greatest crisis likely to face educators in this millennium is not *scarcity* of resources but information *glut*. Moreover, Adventist education is becoming increasingly diverse, making it even more difficult to locate appropriate resources for a diversity of users. The Internet provides connections and communication that would be difficult to find otherwise. In this column, we'll look at several new resources for connecting Adventist educators and enhancing Christian education.

CIRCLE

CIRCLE¹ (Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators), the new comprehensive Adventist curriculum site on the World Wide Web, aims to be a central clearinghouse where Adventist educators can quickly find the quality resources they need. Launched at the North American Division (NAD) K-12 Convention in Dallas in August 2000, CIRCLE's first phase focuses on gathering quality elementary and secondary education resources. However, its goal is to serve as a *central* clearinghouse, seamlessly serving K-22+. Higher education and Adventist research will be the focus of future developments.

The potential of CIRCLE lies in educators sharing resources. A simple online submission form allows you to enter your favorite Web site or resource into the CIRCLE database. After screening by the site administrator (or an appointed specialist), the resource will be made available online—those who *have* resources can share with those who *need* them—anytime, anywhere. "Thank you for the help! I believe we are now on our way! I will tell others about this site!" said Margo Honner in an E-mail

about graduation song ideas she had obtained for her Grade 8 class this spring.

The more educators who visit the CIRCLE site, the more helpful it will become. International interest is expanding the resource-sharing base. We encourage Adventist educators to visit CIRCLE and to share information about resources from books and magazines, videos, the Internet, and other sources.

Making Adventist-developed curriculum and instruction resources available is CIRCLE's highest priority. Finding, linking to, and/or encouraging development of downloadable resources integrating faith across disciplines and for teaching Bible at all levels will be its most important service. Being able to connect with thousands of carefully screened Web sites, printed materials, and multimedia resources that support Adventist K-12 curricula and/or higher education courses and disciplines will make this Web site worth returning to again and again.

Adventist Education Forum

Profile studies² and CIRCLE field testing indicate that teachers often feel isolated and want professional contact with Adventist colleagues. A Michigan Conference initiative, supported by NAD and CIRCLE, EdForum³ provides a discussion forum for any Adventist educator. This online meeting place should increasingly serve as a hub for discussions and idea sharing.

TAGeducation

A new initiative, TAGeducation⁴ aims to empower and promote Christ-centered online learning ministries. It will consult and support the newly formed distance-education consortiums for education K-16 in order to promote exceptional courses. TAGnet⁵ will include more

than technical services. It will provide training for online instructors and promote effective instructional strategies to help ensure high-quality learning experiences. TAGeducation is built on the vision of the Adventist Virtual Learning Laboratory (AVLL) and will collaborate closely with this grassroots group of educators and administrators from K-12 and higher education who are convinced that we must work together in ways that have never been tried before.⁶

Adventist Education Network

The North American Division Office of Education⁷ Web site provides a map locator with contact information for all its schools and colleges. Another frequently accessed online service is their posting of current NAD employment opportunities for educators. Statistics, news, curriculum updates, and helpful links to other resources makes this a valuable resource for educators. Similar initiatives by other division offices of education would rapidly supplement and strengthen this first attempt to create a global Adventist education network.

Together, CIRCLE, EdForum, TAGeducation, and the Adventist Education Network form an exciting new frontier in Adventist education, bringing educational tech-

nology to Adventist educators around the globe in the 21st century. ✍

This column was a collaboration between Janine Lim, an Instructional Technology Consultant at the Berrien County Intermediate School District in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Glynis Bradfield, CIRCLE Project Manager, based at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Visit CIRCLE at <http://circle.adventist.org>. Managed by Glynis Bradfield (glynisb@andrews.edu), with Randy Siebold (randy@andrews.edu) and Paul Brantley (brantley@andrews.edu).
2. From *Profile '97, A Preliminary Report of Curriculum and Instruction in Seventh-day Adventist Schools*. North American Division Curriculum Committee, December 1997. Conducted by the Andrews University School of Education.
3. See EdForum, <http://edforum.adventist.org>. Managed by Melvin Wade (melwade@rubiconetek.com).
4. TAGeducation stands for *Three Angels Global Education*. See <http://www.TAGeducation.org>. Directed by Marilyn Eggers (megggers@atie.org).
5. TAGnet stands for *Three Angels Global Network*, an Adventist Web hosting service. See <http://www.TAGnet.org>.
6. Adventist Virtual Learning Laboratory (AVLL) <http://www.tageducation.org/avll/>.
7. Visit the Adventist Education Network at <http://nadeducation.adventist.org>.

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