Keeping Up To Date With Assistive Technology Research.

What does the research say?

- Little published peer-reviewed research.
- Research base is small but emerging.
- The research that is available indicates the potential impact assistive technology has on the teaching and learning programs for students with disabilities and learning difficulties.
- Future research "must revolve around improved understanding on the part of teachers as much as on provision of new, enhanced or more numerous technologies" (Abbott, C. (2007). *E-inclusion: Learning Difficulties and Digital Technologies*. See link below).
- Dave Edyburn's year in review series: "What Have We Learned Lately?" And "Top Articles on Special Education Technology That You Must Read" (http://www.uwm.edu/~edyburn/what.html).

Journals

Edyburn 2003 review (Edyburn, 2004) found 224 articles directly relating to special education technology research and practice in 30 journals. 70% of these articles were found in what Edyburn calls a 'core set of 11 journals'. Over the five years Edyburn has conducted these reviews he found the top two journals to be: Journal of Special Education Technology and Closing The Gap.

- Journal of Special Education Technology jset.unlv.edu/
- Closing The Gap www.closingthegap.com
- Special Education Technology Practice www.setp.net
- Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits www.atia.org/atob/ATOBWeb
- Learning and Leading with Technology www.iste.org

Books and Publications

Edyburn, D.L., Higgins, K., & Boone, R. (Eds.). (2005). *Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice*. Whitefish Bay, WI: Knowledge by Design.

An authoritative single-volume reference documenting the latest research and practice developments in special education technology. Featuring contributions from 100 authors, this handbook is essential reading for special education teachers, administrators, teacher educators, graduate students, technology specialists, researchers, and policy makers.

BECTA (2003) *What the research says about ICT supporting special educational needs (SEN) and inclusion*. Available from:
http://www.becta.org.uk/page_documents/research/wtrs_ictsupport.pdf

This briefing paper is based on an analysis of available research about how information and communications technology (ICT) can support inclusive practice in schools. It summarises the key findings and suggests resources for further reading.

Abbott, C. (2007). *E-inclusion: Learning Difficulties and Digital Technologies*. Retrieved from
http://www.futurelab.org.uk/download/pdfs/research/lit_reviews/futurelab_review_15.pdf.

Correspondence: Greg O'Connor, Spectronics, PO Box 5081, East Lismore, NSW, 2480, Australia.
Ph: 07 38086833, Fax: 07 38086108 Email: grego@spectronicsinoz.com

This review focuses specifically on the use of digital technologies to enable children with learning difficulties to learn effectively. Its goal is to move beyond some of the hype and marketing rhetoric that sometimes characterises this field and to ask nuanced questions about the evidence that exists of the role of digital technologies in this area.

SET-BC (2007) *Making It Work: Effective Implementation of Assistive Technology*
Available as a download from:
http://www.setbc.org/setbc/topics/effective_implementation_of_assistive_technology.html

This resource package is designed to provide educators with a guide for successfully implementing a wide variety of assistive technologies with students with special needs. A comprehensive implementation plan and samples of specific tools are included in this resource.

Web links – Assistive Technology Research

http://www.uwm.edu/~edyburn
Dave Edyburn Home page provides links to research, publications and articles (including the year in review articles). Be sure to check out his '90 Days of Summer' (http://www.setp.net/summer/90days.html) where readers are encouraged to spend 10-20 minutes a day exploring new ideas, skills, and resources.

http://natri.uky.edu
The National Assistive Technology Research Institute (NATRI) conducts assistive technology (AT) research, translates theory and research into AT practice, and provides resources for improving the delivery of AT services.

http://wati.org/news/news.html
The Monitor – Assistive Technology in Wisconsin. An online newsletter containing information about new products, vendors, publications, and other resources related to assistive technology. It is distributed electronically via email and the WATI website.

http://www.cited.org
CITEd's Research Center offers evidence-based, promising, and emerging practices based on the latest research. Explore how technology can be used to enhance instruction with an emphasis on students with special needs. Browse research and its implications for the classroom, school, and district.

http://www.rit.edu/~easi/itd.htm
Information Technology and Disabilities E-Journal.

http://www.tamcec.org
TAM (Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children) works to promote the availability and effective use of technology and media for children, birth to 21, with disabilities and/or who are gifted. Follow the publications link to access the Journal of Special Education Technology, TAM Connector and TAM in Action.

http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc/research.html
The webpage of the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre, University of Toronto, relating to research and development.

http://www.connsensebulletin.com/whatsup.html
The connSENSE Bulletin provides access to recent articles, resources reviews, links and conferences.

http://caret.iste.org

CARET (a special project of the International Society of technology in Education) bridges education technology research to practice by offering research-based answers to critical questions.

http://www.ldonline.org/article/c679
LD Online website's technology related articles.

http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/go/home/projects/pid/278
The Australian Flexible Learning Framework's *Inclusive e-learning* Project aims to increase the uptake of e-learning as an effective and efficient delivery strategy for increasing vocational education and training (VET) participation by under-represented and priority learner groups including youth at risk, learners with a disability and mature age workers. This webpage has links to Inclusive e-Learning trials, online groups, research and policy reports, guidelines, inclusive e-learning resources, and case studies.

Web links – Assistive Technology General

http://www.setbc.org/setbc/library/library_home.html
Special Education Technology - British Columbia (SET-BC) Learning Centre's main library contains the full collection of SET-BC resources, which have been compiled here so that you can search for specific items by title.

http://www.wati.org/
A state-wide project in Wisconsin, USA, which aims to make assistive technology devices and services more available to children with disabilities.

http://atto.buffalo.edu/
The Assistive Technology Training Online Project (ATTO) provides information on AT applications that help students with disabilities learn in elementary classrooms. There are five sections: 1. AT Basics, 2.Tutorials, 3. AT Decision Making, 4. Resources, and 5. Project Info.

Search

http://scholar.google.com/
Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations. Google Scholar helps you identify the most relevant research across the world of scholarly research.

Listservs, Forums, Online Discussions, Groups

http://lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/senit
The Special Education Needs and ICT (SENIT) list is for teachers, advisers, and others working within education to share practical advice about how ICT can be used to support pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities. There are currently about 400 members.

http://natri.uky.edu/assoc_projects/qiat/signup.html
Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology Services (QIAT) List
Join in the continuing effort to develop Quality Indictors for Assistive Technology Services in school settings by subscribing to the QIAT Listserv and participating in collegial discussions.

http://www.closingthegap.com/forums/ultimatebb.php
The Closing the Gap forums are free discussion boards supporting the use of assistive technology.

Correspondence: Greg O'Connor, Spectronics, PO Box 5081, East Lismore, NSW, 2480, Australia.
Ph: 07 38086833, Fax: 07 38086108 Email: grego@spectronicsinoz.com

http://www.connsensebulletin.com/signup.html
The ConnSENSE Letter is emailed about 4 times a year to update subscribers on the latest additions to the ConnSENSE Bulletin website.

http://www.learningplace.com.au/deliver/content.asp?pid=22215
OnLine listserv provided by Education Queensland's Disability Services Support Unit.

The OnLine Newsletter (open a copy) is published on a regular basis throughout the year. The newsletter is published in Acrobat format although other electronic formats are available on request. You can receive your own copy of the OnLine Newsletter by subscribing to this OnLine listserv. Go to the address above and select "Adaptive Technology Services OnLine Newsletter" from the first drop down menu.

http://www.lists.edna.edu.au/lists/lists/about
Start your own email discussion listserv at www.edna.edu.au . It's free and easy to set up.

http://www.aatug.answd.org
Australian Adapted Technology User Group (AATUG). AATUG aims to facilitate the use of adapted technology in the education and employment environments. It's a discussion list for disseminating and promoting information about the use of adapted technology by people with a disability.

Sharing

http://del.icio.us/
Del.icio.us is a social bookmarking website -- the primary use of del.icio.us is to store your bookmarks online, which allows you to access the same bookmarks from any computer and add bookmarks from anywhere, too. You can also use del.icio.us to see the interesting links that your friends and other people bookmark, and share links with them in return.

Websites for Parents and Families

http://www.fctd.info/
The Family Center on Technology and Disability is a resource designed to support organizations and programs that work with families of children and youth with disabilities.

http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/
Family Village is a global community that integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the internet for persons with cognitive and other disabilities, for their families, and for those that provide them services and support.

http://www.ataccess.org/
The Alliance for Technology Access (ATA) is the national network of community-based Resource Centers, Developers, Vendors, and Associates dedicated to providing information and support services to children and adults with disabilities, and increasing their use of standard, assistive, and information technologies.

Documents and web links in this handout can be accessed via the following wiki:

http://gregoconnor.wikispaces.com

A wikispace to support the networking of people interested in Assistive Technology and Education Research in Australia and New Zealand:

http://anzatresearch.wikispaces.com/