

# **Keeping Up To Date: What I Need To Know About Assistive Technology Research**

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# Presentation Outline

- Provide an overview of the assistive technology research literature.
- Provide tools for:
  - Locating, Sharing and Documenting research and good practice in assistive technology.

# Presentation Information

Information and documents relating to this presentation can be found @

<http://gregoconnor.wikispaces.com/>

# Why Research?

“...delicate balance between no-holds-barred openness to new ideas...and the most rigorous sceptical scrutiny of everything – new ideas and established wisdom.”

Carl Sagan

<http://www.carlsagan.com/>

# Definitions

Assistive Technology

Digital Technologies

E-inclusion



# e-inclusion

- Emphasises interaction between digital tools, contexts and people
- Focuses on the activity of the use of the technology by or with people

Abbott (2007)

# Dynamic

- In 2003 there were 25,000 products available.



# Assistive Technology Research

- The research base is emerging
- Little published peer-reviewed research concerning the impact of assistive technology on learning
- Limited in scope and rigor
- Technologically determinist perspective



# Barriers to Use

Lack of:

- Knowledge
- Training
- Funding
- System support
- Leadership
- Research
- Data driven decisions

# Barriers to Use

“ special education teachers are using technology to accommodate and adapt curriculum without the use of research or data-driven decision-making processes to guide practice”

Castellani & Castelleni (2005)

**BUT.....**

there is documented research and good practice available. BUT where?

# What does the research say?

Dave Edyburn - What have we learnt lately?

[www.uwm.edu/~edyburn](http://www.uwm.edu/~edyburn)

# Journals

Closing The Gap

<http://www.closingthegap.com>

Journal of Special Education Technology

[jset.unlev.edu](http://jset.unlev.edu)

# Journals

- Special Education Technology Practice

[www.setp.net](http://www.setp.net)

- Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits

[www.atia.org/atob/ATOBBWeb](http://www.atia.org/atob/ATOBBWeb)

- Learning and Leading with Technology

[www.iste.org](http://www.iste.org)

- Assistive technology Journal

<http://www.resna.org/ProfResources/Publications/ATJournal.php>

# Books and Publications

Handbook of Special Education  
Technology Research and Practice

Abbott (2007) E-Inclusion: Learning  
Difficulties and Digital Technologies

([www.futurelab.org.uk](http://www.futurelab.org.uk))

# Research Web Links

CITEd's Research Center

[www.cited.org](http://www.cited.org)

TechMatrix

[www.techmatrix.org](http://www.techmatrix.org)



# Search

Google Scholar

<http://scholar.google.com.au/>

Directory of (Re)search Tools

[www.c4lpt.co.uk/Directory/Tools/research.html](http://www.c4lpt.co.uk/Directory/Tools/research.html)

# Listservs / E-Newsletter

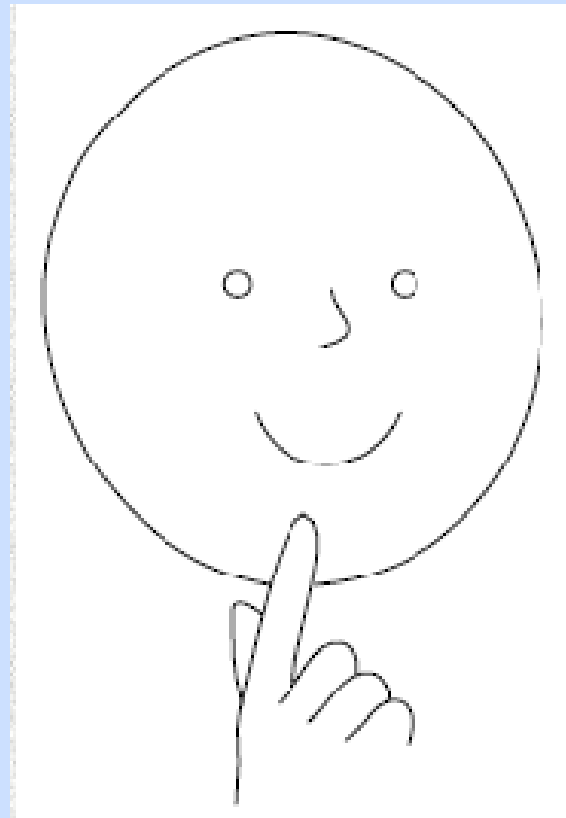
SENIT

[lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/senit](http://lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/senit)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
Smartbrief

[www.smartbrief.com/cec](http://www.smartbrief.com/cec)

# Reflection



# Data driven decision making

- Can we wait for the research community to catch up?
- Australian context
- Action Research

*“Investigations conducted by and for the people taking the action, on their own action to inform their future actions”*

Richard Sagor (2005)

# Sharing / Networking

Del.icio.us

<http://del.icio.us/ocgreg>

AssitiveTech

<http://assistivetech.ning.com/profile/ocgreg>

# Storing / Documenting

- Endnote
- Inspiration

# Future Research?

- Response to Intervention
- Universal Design for Learning
- Social Inclusion / Social Justice
- Web 2.0