Grey literature in Australian education

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ARC research grant

Grey Literature, policy innovation and access to knowledge: realising the value of informal publishing

Universities

Swinburne University (Administration)
- Institute for Social Research
Victoria University

Partner Organisations

- Eidos Institute
- *Australian Council for Educational Research*
- National Library Australia
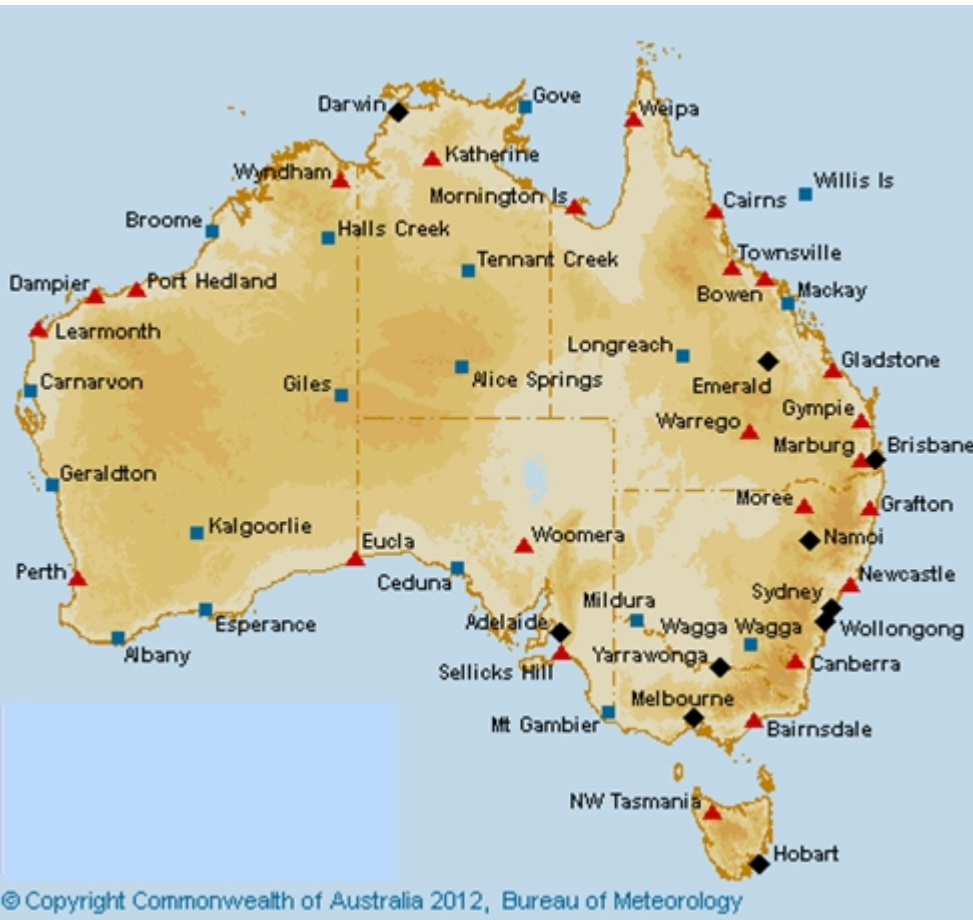- National and State Libraries Australasia

Chief Investigators
Professor Julian Thomas
Professor John Houghton

Key Informant
Dr Gerald White

Research Associates
Amanda Lawrence
Dr Paul Weldon

Overview

- **Grey literature**
- **My EdNA story**
- **Things changed**
- **Information abundance**
- **Lost information**
- **Integrators/curators**
- **The Tyndall framework**

EdNA's life

1. Antecedent OLTC (1993-1997)
2. EdNA development commenced 1995
3. Life 1995-2010 (15 years)

AICTEC

Collaboration

- 8 State departments schools (66%)
- Catholic education (20%)
- Independent education (14%)
- 8 Training departments
- 38 Universities
- Commonwealth education
- Agencies – technology & resources

EdNA usage

Resource database (*search and browse*)

Total database items = 41,368, (39,694 resources, 871 events. 803 news items)
Resource items accessible by distributed search = excess of 3 million digital resources

Memberships (*Shared Information Services*)

35,349 members have self-registered to any edna registered service via single sign on
(i.e. Groups, Lists administration, me.edu.au or any combination)
23,205 edna Groups (Moodle) members
14,729 me.edu.au members
123,928 edna List email subscribers

- Curriculum documents
- Reports
- Lesson plans
- Implementation strategies
- Research
- Newsletters
- Policy statements
- Annual reports
- White papers
- Guidelines
- .....

Groups (*EdNA Groups*)

Groups *member* growth over 2 year period Jan 2007-December 2008 = **113%**
Growth in number of *communities* for same period = **100%**
Growth in *single sign-on* (i.e. all member services) for same period = **127%**
Growth in email List *subscribers* for same period = **65%**.
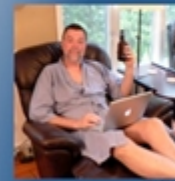
(Education.au, 2009b, pp. 19-20)

Things changed

96% 9-16 year olds access the internet often using mobile devices (60%)

ACMA. (2011). *Communications report 2010–11 series: Report 3—The emerging mobile telecommunications service market in Australia*. ACMA: Canberra, Australia. Retrieved December 20, 2011, from http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_410225.

Why should I go to the library

when the library will come to me?

Education and abundance

3.5 million Australians
Annual budget ~ $94 bn

Abundance – blogs
informally published

Powering **1,446,974** Edublogs since 2005

edublogs

Oct 11
173,000,000

Oct 10
148,452,047

Oct 08
78,703,197

Oct 09
127,035,018

Oct 06
35,771,454

Oct 07
61,353,334

Read as: In October 2011 NM Incite tracked 173 million
blogs as sources of online buzz.
Source: NM Incite
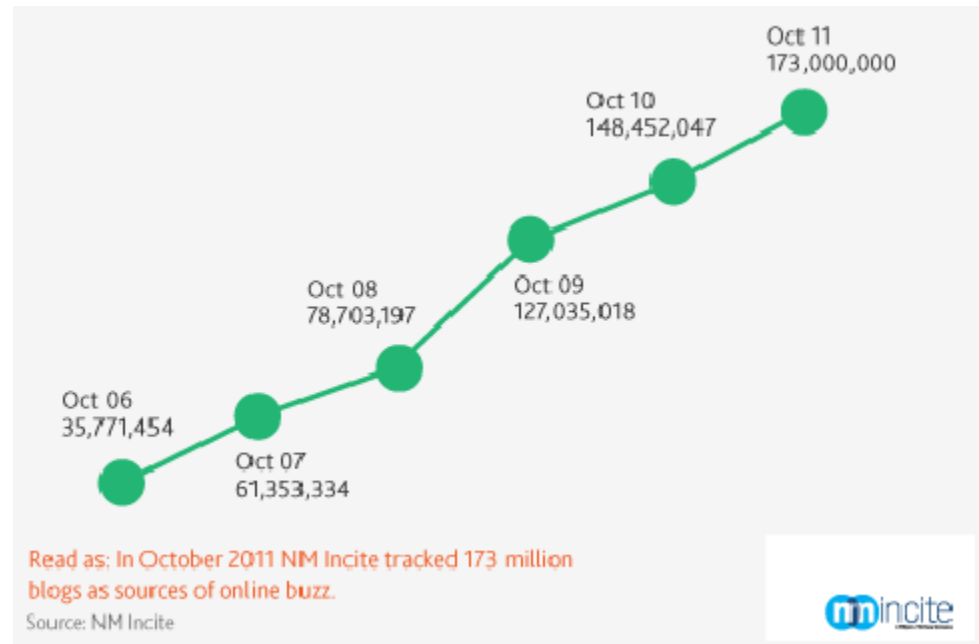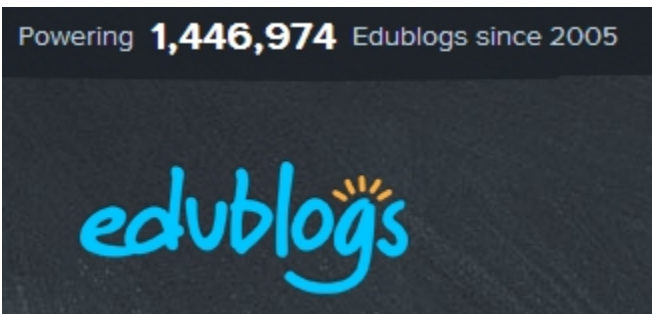
mincite

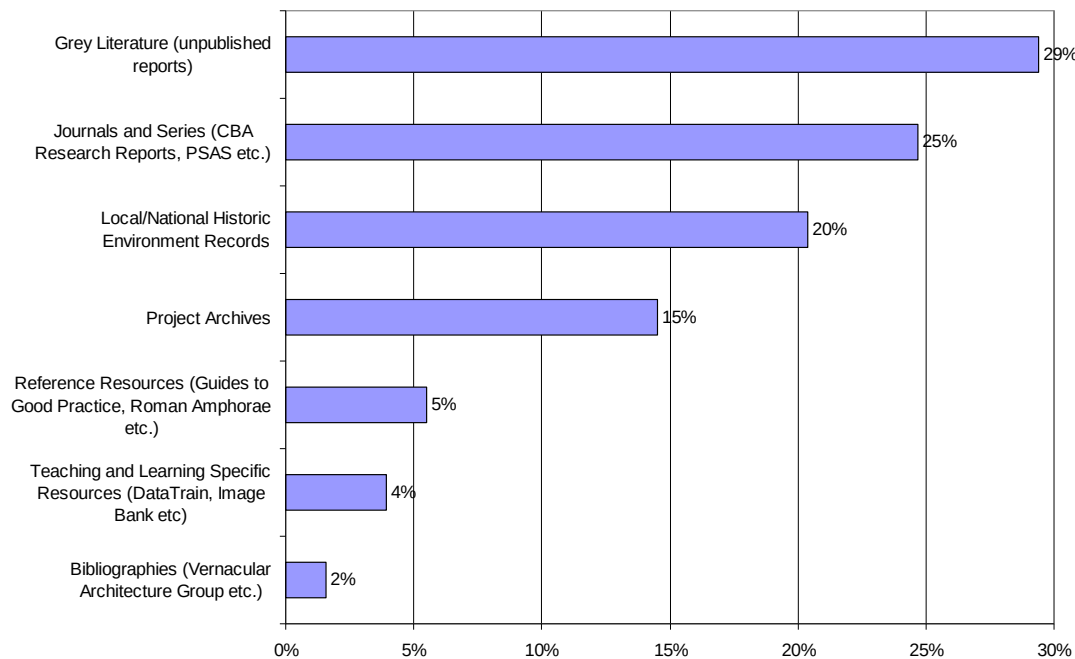NM Incite. (2012). *Number of blogs tracked by NM Incite*. Retrieved
march 14, 2012, from http://www.nmincite.com/?page_id=210.

Abundance of information

Archaeological Research Data
(Per cent of users by last data type used)

Houghton, J. (2012). The value of alternative forms of publishing for policy research. Presentation given at the *Where is the Evidence? conference* , June 10, 2012. Canberra; Australia.

Education has a problem with an abundance of information much of which becomes lost or inaccessible

- **Information is more accessible**
- **More written information**
- **More published**
- **Increase in grey literature**
- **Information overload**

Lost information

Lost

Why?

Not archived

Conference papers
Dissertations
Newsletters
Research projects
Policy statements
Annual reports
Working papers
White papers
Bulletins
Fact sheets
Blogs

Technical reports
Memoranda
Meeting minutes
Speeches
Statistics
Directories
Programs & projects
Memoranda
Guidelines
Surveys
Bibliographies

Integrators/Curators

Digital Education Research Network (DERN)

http://dern2.acer.edu.au

- Research reviews
- Research news
- Research briefs
- Research database
- Archives
- Email alerts

Born digital
(OCLC)

Tyndall framework

… to systematically build a search schema for a discipline

AACODS

Govt reports

Blogs

Research reports

Projects

Conferences

Newsletters

- **Authority**
- **Accuracy**
- **Coverage**
- **Objectivity**
- **Date**
- **Significance**

Open resources

National bodies

International bodies

Tyndall, J. (2008). *How low can you go?: Toward a hierarchy of grey literature*. Retrieved September 8, 2012, from http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/dspace.

Gerry White
Thank you

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