



# The Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia, Inc

The professional association for teachers, developers, researchers, consultants and administrators involved in open, distance, distributed and flexible learning

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## Featured resources

### Online projects in Schools

[2003 Mathematics Game](#)

[Achievers International](#)

[Adopt an Animal](#)

Compiled by [EdNA Online](#).

### Developing integrated online learning environments

[CourseWork \(Course Management System\)](#)

[Design Checklists for Online Help](#)

[Design of an Integrated Online Learning Environment](#)

Compiled by [EdNA Online](#).

### Recent Higher Ed conference proceedings

[2002 National UniServe - Conference Proceedings](#)

[2003 UniServe Science - Conference Proceedings](#)

[2004 Informing Science + IT Education Conference](#)

Compiled by [EdNA Online](#).

## 2005 Conference - Adelaide 9-11 November

The conference is shaping up to be a major international event. Keep checking the [conference website](#) for special deals for ODLAA members (and those who might be interested in becoming a member).

### ODLAA Awards

These awards are presented in association with our biennial conference in November, but deadlines for submission are looming. ODLAA members are encouraged to nominate themselves or their colleagues for a 2005 award.

Consult the [Awards page](#) for more information.

### New website (private to ODLAA members)

A draft site is about to be tested by a small group of members. The focus of this site will be on interaction between members and information on upcoming events and professional development opportunities but it will also provide access to records of meetings, and papers and newsletters published by ODLAA. The directions for evolving this site will be determined by the survey outcomes below and future member feedback.

### Summary of the online member survey

#### ODLAA website usage

Members have been accessing the ODLAA site between 2 and 20 times a year mainly to see if there are any changes, particularly in the areas of our events and resources. In comparison with the old site members find the new site more relevant, easy to navigate, lots more interesting, more information oriented, more current looking and more user-friendly.

Suggestions for improving the new site focused on categories of information to be included:

- more publications free to the internet
- current and easy to access research and conference papers
- member annotated information
- more resources
- more on individual and collaborative projects
- updates on events and publications

## Global news

### Top 3 news items from EdNA

[Researchers Tail Whale Sharks Beyond Ningaloo](#)

[More Staff for Australia's University Students](#)

[Open Source Industry Group Offers Free Software to Australian Schools](#)

Compiled by [EdNA Online](#).

### Forthcoming conferences of interest

19 - 22 May  
Blogtalk Downunder 2005  
"Emergent conversations"  
Sydney , Australia  
<http://incsub.org/blogtalk/>

5 - 8 June  
Distance Learning Administration 2005  
Georgia, USA  
<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/dla2005prop.html>

20 -22 June  
CRIDALA DEC 2005 Conference  
"Transforming Asian Education through Open and Distance Learning"  
Combines the third *Conference on Research in Distance and Adult Learning in Asia* with the fourth *Conference on Distance Education in China*.  
Hong Kong  
<http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/cridal/cridala2005/>

20 - 23 June  
Lifelong E-Learning  
"Bringing e-learning close to lifelong learning and working life: a new period of uptake"  
EDEN - European Distance and E-Learning Network Annual Conference  
Helsinki , Finland  
<http://www.eden-online.org>

27 June - 2 July  
ED-MEDIA 2005  
World conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications  
Organized by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)  
Montreal, Canada

- as much professional information and networking as possible
- professional development opportunities

### Professional development

There was a clear preference for online professional development activities(80%), with the next most popular options being in conjunction with other local events (53%) followed by capital cities (47%). Only 13% wanted professional development activities to be specific to educational sectors. Topics suggested for future events included mention of a couple of people visiting Australia this year plus:

- Effectiveness of e-learning
- Research methods and research reporting
- Development of research skills
- What works and what doesn't for external assessment
- elearning, mlearning, new learning and teaching paradigms for DE and flexible delivery
- Principles of learning and teaching associated with Learning Management Systems
- Managing up - getting senior management aware of, sympathetic to, and supportive of distance and elearning directions.

### Special Interest Groups

There were fairly low responses to the idea of special interest groups and responses were scattered so we will need to do more work before finalising any activity in this area. Research was most commonly noted as a potential group, with a particular focus on research mentoring(4). Others included:

- instructional design (3)
- flexible and mixed mode/blended learning ( 2)
- vocational education (1)
- policy and management (1)
- trans/international activities (1)
- gender/feminist/critical perspectives (1)
- use of IP databanks (1)
- researching learners' experiences (1)
- teacher education (1)
- special education (1)
- professional development (1)
- elearning (1)
- mobile technologies (1)

No one was willing to lead a special interest group although a number of people were willing to lead an activity now and then, or collaborate in a team to lead a group.

### Future directions

Suggestions for what else should be considered included:

- Consider the question of open access to all of ODLAA's publications
- Keep members fully informed about the business aspects of ODLAA's publishing
- More evidence of national and international collaboration with professional associations in cognate fields
- More information on what members are doing in ODE

<http://www.aace.org/conf/edmedia>

3 - 5 July  
AusWeb05  
Surfers Paradise, Australia  
<http://ausweb.scu.edu.au/>

4 - 6 July  
ICET 2005  
The IASTED International Conference on Education and Technology  
Calgary, Canada  
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2005/calgary/c495.htm?cate>

5 - 7 July  
The 5 th DIVERSE International Conference on Video and Videoconferencing in Education  
Nashville, USA  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/DIVERSE2005/Front.html>

5 - 8 July  
ICALT 2005  
The 5 th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies  
Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
<http://www.ask.iti.gr/icalt/2005/main.php>

18 - 22 July  
IMPACT 2005  
7th annual WebCT user conference  
San Francisco, USA

29 - 31 August  
CATE 2005  
8 th IASTED International Conference on Computers and Advanced Technology in Education  
Oranjestad, Aruba  
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2005/aruba/c476.htm?cate>

6 - 8 September  
ALT-C 2005  
"Exploring the frontiers of e-learning"  
Manchester , UK  
<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005>

14 - 16 September  
"Designs on eLearning"  
Inaugural international conference on the use of technology for teaching and learning in Art, Design and Communication.  
London , UK  
<http://www.arts.ac.uk/itrd/c/conference>

25 - 28 September  
Techlearn 2005  
Las Vegas, USA

24 - 28 October  
E-Learn 2005  
World conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare and Higher Education.  
Organised by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (ACE)  
Vancouver, Canada  
<http://www.aace.org/conf/elearn>

11 - 13 November  
ICODL2005  
"Applications of Pedagogy and Technology"

- Review ODLAA awards to encourage participation in areas people can apply for and dispense with awards that only apply to a small group of members

There were also some nice congratulatory comments that indicate we are heading in the right directions for our members:

"I thought the ODLAA visitors program last year was a nice initiative"

"New format [of ODLAA Times] is a winner"

"I'm very impressed with recent directions"

Some additional information was received of particular member circumstances and needs. For privacy reasons these are not replicated here, but will be considered by the Executive among the survey results.

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the survey.

Wanda

3 rd International Conference on Open and Distance Learning  
Patra, Greece  
<http://www.opennet.gr>

14 - 16 November  
IASTED-HCI 2005  
The IASTED International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction  
Phoenix, USA  
<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/2005//aruba/c470.htm?cate>

28 November - 2 December  
ICCE 2005  
The 13 th International Conference on Computers in Education  
Singapore  
<http://www.icce2005.servy.net>

16 - 17 December  
5 th International Conference on Virtual University  
Bratislava, Slovakia

13 - 16 February 2006  
Borderless Education: Quality Matters and International Education, A Matter of Heart  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
<http://www.celts.monash.edu.au/events/inted>

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