

In 1999 the National Literacy Secretariat contacted Dr. Grace Malicky at the University of Alberta to develop a comprehensive on-line directory of adult literacy research. Dr. Pat Campbell, an adjunct professor at the Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy at the University of Alberta, was contracted to complete the work. Pat worked with the national Adult Literacy Database (NALD) to develop the database. Between April to December 1999, 138 pieces of research published between 1994 and 1998 were entered into the database, as well as 22 pieces of ongoing research.

After the initial work was completed in 1999, the Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy was awarded two further grants (2000 and 2004) from the National Literacy Secretariat. The funds were used to update, maintain, and promote the directory. Drs. Pat Campbell and Linda Phillips continued to work on the directory until 2005. By December 31, 2005, 342 studies were entered into the research directory. Six editions of the Directory were completed. Dr. Pat Campbell moved to establish her own company, Grass Roots Press and the National Literacy Secretariat underwent revisions.

In 2006 Dr. Linda Phillips was urged to continue the Directory. She was awarded a grant in 2007 by the National Office of Language and Learning which has now merged into the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES), HRDSC.

The main benefits of the Directory include:

- It improves the coordination and information sharing among literacy practitioners and researchers across Canada. Consequently, people with similar research interests may begin to collaborate.
- It identifies areas of coverage and gaps in the research.
- It provides access to research that may not be published in mainstream resources.