



Newsletter, Issue 2: January 2009

Thank you for your interest in the Education Coordinating Group (ECG) of the Campbell Collaboration (C2). A special thank you to all those who also attended the ECG meeting on Monday afternoon at the Campbell Colloquium held 12-14 May 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This issue of the Newsletter introduces a number of subgroups that have been established with approval of the C2 Steering Group (SG). We encourage you to participate with one or more of these subgroups, or to propose another subgroup. If you have any queries or comments, or if you simply want to get back in touch with us, please send along an e-mail.

With very best wishes,

-- **Chad Nye**, cnye@mail.ucf.edu
-- **Carole Torgerson**, cjt3@york.ac.uk
(Co-Chairs)

CONTENTS

ECG Editorial Update.....	1
ECG Organizes Subgroups.....	2
Disability Subgroup is Established.....	2
ECG Co-Chair Election	4
2009 C2 Colloquium.....	4
Redesigned C2 Website	4
Contact us.....	4

ECG Editorial Update

The two Co-Chairs, Carole Torgerson and Chad Nye, have also served as Editors for the systematic reviews submitted to the ECG. In 2009, Ralf Schlosser has accepted the responsibility as incoming Editor. Julia Lavenberg continues in her role as Managing Editor.

The ECG has 24 reviews underway, with 5 completed reviews. Topics include language/literacy development, teacher qualifications, peer assistance, attendance, science inquiry instruction, extended day/year, and preparatory courses for university entrance exams. The range of these topics hints at the scope of the ECG. Mirroring the diversity of topics, primary authors are geographically varied as well, with Canada, the UK, Germany, China, and the US each being represented. The members of the Editorial Board are quite pleased with the number of recent submissions and with the level of author enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to another productive quarter. See the Education reviews here: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/reviews_education/index.php

-- **Julia Lavenberg**, Managing Editor, j.lavenberg@gmail.com

ECG Organizes Subgroups

A proposal was submitted to the Steering Group Co-Chairs that suggested the establishment of several subgroups under the umbrella of the ECG to reflect specific areas of research interests in the field of Education. The Disability Subgroup is described in the focus article in this issue of the Newsletter. If you have an interest in participating in any of these groups, please contact the following ECG members who have volunteered as coordinators of the new subgroups:

Disability Subgroup:

John Westbrook, john.westbrook@sedl.org

Ralf Schlosser, r.schlosser@neu.edu

Literacy/Language Subgroup:

Jamie Schwartz, jschwartz@mail.ucf.edu

Greg Brooks, g.brooks@sheffield.ac.uk

Special Education Subgroup:

Oliver Wendt, wendto@purdue.edu

Disability Subgroup is Established

In January 2008, John Westbrook, Director of SEDL's National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR), wrote a formal letter to the C2 Steering Group requesting the consideration of adding the topic of Disability to the current C2 topics of Crime and Justice, Education, and Social Welfare. The following is an excerpt from the letter:

The field of disability, as used here, is broad and encompasses research that addressed issues in the areas of employment, community integration, quality of life, rehabilitation engineering, and independent living, among others. This is an area in which substantial amounts of research findings are available and research is currently being conducted. Population demographics suggest a growing expectation for evidence-based information in many areas under the disability umbrella. A need exists to promote the development of high-quality evidence-based information such as that produced through C2 that is relevant to disability.

The C2 Steering Group met March 7–10, 2008, in Oslo, Norway, and spent a portion of the meeting discussing establishment of the ECG subgroups. From the minutes of the meeting (p.2):

The disability field is of special importance to the Campbell Collaboration as evidence on interventions to improve the lives of disabled persons cuts across all our substantive areas, thus making it a possible new coordinating group. The SG expressed a strong endorsement of the suggestion developed by director John D. Westbrook at the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research

to build a group within the Education Coordinating Group (ECG) as a start (Drs. Chad Nye and Carole Torgerson, ECG Co-Chairs, to take forward).

The subgroup became official and convened with the ECG in its meeting on May 12, 2008, in Vancouver. The C2 Disability Subgroup has a cross-disability orientation across the lifespan of individuals with disabilities. It may become a new coordinating group if there is sufficient growth in interest and production of systematic reviews within the disability topic area over the next several years. The Disability Subgroup has established the following preliminary objectives:

- Undertake and maintain a series of high-quality and timely systematic reviews of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and outcomes of individuals with disabilities. These reviews focus attention on substantive disability topics through the summary and analysis of the best available, high-quality research evidence provided through randomized and non-randomized quasi-experimental designs.
- Establish and maintain a network of individuals with disability expertise or experience who are interested in developing and/or contributing to disability-related systematic reviews.
- Encourage involvement of consumers with disabilities, their family members, and other disability-oriented stakeholders in all steps of the systematic review development process, including the development and dissemination of appropriate user-friendly interpretations of review results.
- Provide training opportunities for interested systematic review authors in the production of C2 reviews in the disability area. Training will be offered in 2009 through SEDL's National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research, building on an online course offered in 2007-2008 (<http://www.ncddr.org/pd/courses/>); webcasts (<http://www.ncddr.org/webcasts/>); and workshops (<http://www.ncddr.org/pd/workshops/>). For additional information, please contact **Joann Starks**, joann.starks@sedl.org

Ralf Schlosser of Northeastern University and John Westbrook of SEDL are the coordinators of the subgroup. Individuals interested in conducting a C2 systematic review in the disability area are urged to contact one of the coordinators. C2 has many helpful resources that are available to systematic review authors.

Several benefits can be expected to result from the C2 designation of the Disability Subgroup. These include:

- Expertise in the disability area can be organized to better assist individuals in identifying review questions and undertaking systematic reviews.
- Information pertinent to the disability area should be easier to locate and access.
- Researchers can see more options and formats for the use of their rigorous disability-related research findings.
- Systematic reviews in the disability area developed in compliance with C2 guidelines will be shared via the C2 library and made available to an international audience.
- Disability-related topics will likely assume a higher profile in C2 training and information sharing events such as the annual colloquium.

The addition of the Disability Subgroup within C2 is a wonderful opportunity to focus on developing an evidence base to support practice, facilitate future research planning, and provide a new resource for relevant, evidence-based information for both consumers with disabilities and professionals. In order for these goals to become reality, however, individuals must volunteer to develop systematic reviews following the C2 guidelines.

(Adapted from *FOCUS Technical Brief #20* (2008): <http://www.ncddr.org/kt/products/focus/focus20/>.)

ECG Co-Chair Election

The newly adopted C2 Governance plan calls for the rotating election of Coordinating Group Co-Chairs every 18 months beginning with 2009 calendar year. Carole Torgerson has agreed to step down from her position so that the first election can take place to be effective for the May 2009 C2 Steering Group meeting at the Colloquium in Oslo. The election will be organized and conducted through the C2 Secretariat's office and members of the ECG should be receiving information in the near future.

2009 C2 Colloquium

The Ninth Annual Colloquium of the Campbell Collaboration will be held in Oslo, Norway and is co-sponsored with *The Lancet*. The Colloquium will take place 18-20 May 2009 with the theme "Better Evidence for a Better World." Information regarding registration, speakers, and program highlights is available at the C2 website:

<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/Colloquium/>

NOTE: The deadline for the Call for Submissions is **January 15, 2009**.

<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/Colloquium/submissions.shtml>

Redesigned C2 Website

In September 2008, the C2 launched its new website: www.campbellcollaboration.org/

See the **Education Coordinating Group** pages:

www.campbellcollaboration.org/ECG/Education/index.php

Contact us

If you know of anyone who might be interested in C2 generally and the Education Coordinating Group specifically, or if you have information for future newsletters, please contact the Co-Chairs (**Chad Nye**, cnye@mail.ucf.edu or **Carole Torgerson**, cjt3@york.ac.uk) or the Newsletter Editor, **Joann Starks**, joann.starks@sedl.org.