

*David Mitchell and
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A few round of publications and surveys tops the agenda of activity at the Research Institute for Waldorf Education, including the production of a new format for rare books and articles.

Electronic Books

An exciting new venture launched by the Research Institute for Waldorf Education is the publication of Electronic Books. These “E-books” are posted on the website of our Online Waldorf Library (OWL)—www.waldorflibrary.org—and can be downloaded gratis anywhere in the world. They are also available on disks.

The goal of this project, sponsored by the Waldorf Curriculum Fund, is to locate out-of-print resources, gain permission from the original publishers, and create Adobe pdf files. In this way, educational insights inspired by Rudolf Steiner are made available to anyone around the globe.

So far, two CD-ROMs have been produced:

E-Books disk #1, 2008, contains:

Science in Education (essays from *Child and Man*)
The Gospel of Hellas by Friedrich Hiebel
Handwork by Hedwig Hauck

E-Books disk #2, 2009, contains:

Reading and Writing by Karl König
Arithmetic (with references to Zoology) by Karl König
Embryology and World Evolution by Karl König
Creating Social Sacraments by Dieter Brüll

Plans are underway for at least ten more disks, each with three or more books. We invite our readers to write to us at the Research Institute with suggested titles of books and articles no longer in print.

Parents Survey

We are also working on a survey of Waldorf parents initiated by Martin Novom. Results of this

work, currently undergoing statistical review and peer analysis, should be available later this year. We intend to print excerpts in the next issue of the *Research Bulletin*.

Sex Education

Under the guidance of Douglas Gerwin, the Research Institute is developing a source book on a Waldorf educational approach to sexual education in grades 4–12. Working with colleagues in Switzerland and Germany, we are currently translating portions of Bart Maris and Michael Zech’s book, *Sexualkunde in der Waldorfpädagogik (The Study of Sexuality in Waldorf Education)*. In addition, we are commissioning prominent Waldorf educators in North America to prepare additional chapters and have begun conducting research among schools to gather curriculum suggestions. It is our hope that this research will yield new and morally grounded material and that such a curriculum can extend beyond Waldorf education into the mainstream.

Teaching Sensible Science

A new cycle of the ever-popular course on “Teaching Sensible Science,” a series of three one-week intensives in a phenomenological approach to science for Waldorf school class teachers, had to be postponed because participants were unable to secure sufficient financial support. We expect that this course, which has received high praise from those teachers who have taken it over the years, will start up again in the next season. Schools interested in hosting this course during the next school year are invited to contact the Research Institute.

European Collaboration

We continue to find new ways of collaborating with colleagues in Europe, but, unfortunately, funding for these initiatives has dried up. For this year, at least, we are limited to meeting only once

with these colleagues to continue dialogue and to enhance research with a European perspective. We hope that this important collaboration will be fully restored in the future.

Funding Needs

General decline worldwide of funding for research has caught up with the Research Institute. As a result, we find ourselves having to devote increased attention to securing fiscal support to meet the operating costs of the Institute rather than exploring new areas of educational research. While we are fortunate to have several generously funded projects in process and the prospect of some new ones, we need to concentrate energy

into creating an endowment so that we are not always walking on the edge. To this end, we have developed a legacy funding package to support the future of the Institute and have prepared several brochures explaining the benefits of these forms of giving. We thank those who have contributed to the Institute's first annual giving campaign, based on the brochure included with the last edition of the *Research Bulletin*, and we encourage all of you opening this edition to make a donation. An envelope is provided for this purpose, and we urge you to pass the legacy brochure to anyone who might consider supporting our efforts.

Note: You will notice that this issue does not include the complete Index of past Research Bulletins. In order to economize we will include the Index only in the Autumn/Winter edition of the *Bulletin*.