

CIDER is a research initiative of Athabasca University's Centre for Distance Education. Terry Anderson, PhD, the first Canada Research Chair in Distance Education, is the founding director of **CIDER**.

CIDER aims to reduce conjecture in distance education by helping researchers, educators, administrators and interested individuals make more informed decisions.

CIDER is a self-managed online research community, the members of which have a shared interest in distance education research. Members engage in debate, explore areas of interest and disseminate research related to distance education.

By connecting people, ideas, publications, websites and research resources, **CIDER** aims to become a dynamic network, one which is continuously shaped and reshaped by its members, and a central source for distance education research in Canada.

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CIDER seeks to understand, improve and investigate interrelationships among component parts of distance education systems.

CIDER's research scope is broad, including learning and teaching applications, strategic use of technology, issues of access and other factors that influence distance education in Canada.

CIDER directly studies distance teaching and learning and the effects of administrative, technical, learner and teacher support systems that define modern distance education.

CIDER's research agenda involves using quantitative, qualitative and critical research methodologies to study technology mediated distance learning.

The general focus of this agenda is supportive of research that involves practitioners working with innovative interventions designed to advance the theory and improve the practice of distance education.

The overall aim of the **CIDER** research agenda is to provide a voice for policy development and formulation and comprehensive distance education planning based on sound research that takes educational contexts into consideration.

CIDER COMMUNITY



FELLOWS

Researchers active in distance education research are invited to become **CIDER** Research Fellows.

SIG EDITORS

Individuals with a passion for a particular area related to distance education can provide editorial support and facilitate the **CIDER** Special Interest Groups.

STUDENTS

A limited number of Research Assistant Fellowships, in conjunction with funded research projects, are available to graduate students.

RESIDENTS

Resident Fellows are invited (and occasionally funded) for three to 12 month sabbatical-like experiences in Edmonton.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

CIDER has a special role in facilitating and promoting the distance education research of faculty members and graduate students at Athabasca University.

CIDER TEAM

Paula Smith - managing editor of the *International Review of Research on Open and Distance Learning*

Lynn Anderson - session co-ordinator

Dan Wilton - webmaster

Philip Watland, PhD - senior researcher

Research That Matters

Respected CIDER publications include

The *International Review of Research on Open and Distance Learning*

www.irrodl.org - an open-access, online, peer-reviewed e-journal.

Theory and Practice of Online Learning

A comprehensive edited book available as a bound copy or a free downloadable e-book.

Research That Matters

Canadian Institute of
Distance Education
Research

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CIDER Sessions

World-class bimonthly virtual sessions presented by researchers from around the world and covering a number of topics related to distance education theory, practice and research.

Check out the CIDER website at www.cider.athabascau.ca

A comprehensive, fully searchable website showcasing member profiles, e-mail lists, alerts, and RSS feeds featuring notes and discussions relating to issues in distance education from various perspectives. Plus resources, tools and conferences relevant to distance education researchers.

WHY JOIN CIDER?

In addition to having access to a comprehensive resource portal for Canadian and international distance education researchers, CIDER members can

- keep abreast of research and emerging issues, relevant articles, resources and reports
- engage in critical debate on current distance education issues and explore new ideas and views related to distance education research
- explore their distance education area of interest by joining or becoming an editor of a CIDER Special Interest Group
- network and establish a variety of professional contacts with other distance education researchers through contributions to CIDER resources
- search CIDER member profiles to find fellow researchers who share an area of research interest in distance education or a research approach

Become part of
CIDER
*(Canadian Institute of
Distance Education Research)*
a community of
individuals interested
in distance education
research



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