SHARING RESOURCES:

CIRCLE Links Adventist Educators Anytime, Anywhere

BY GLYNIS BRADFIELD, RANDY J. SEIBOLD, AND FAITH-ANN MCGARRELL

Can Janet Curran,* an Adventist teacher in Idaho, locate copies of the North American Division curriculum guides she needs before her school evaluation? Can Olaf Ericsen, who is designing a faith-integrating history course for a European Adventist college, compare similar courses at other Adventist institutions by using a quick online search? Are there inexpensive ways for Ephriam Phiri, principal of a new school in an isolated region of Asia, to find Adventist curriculum and administrative resources? How about Delbert Bailey, a South Pacific superintendent of education—are there materials to help him in-service Adventist teachers? Yes, yes, yes, and yes!

CIRCLE, the Seventh-day Adventist Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators, connects those who have resources with those who need them anytime, anywhere. Often accessed through its online database, CIRCLE is a comprehensive, educational service/source for the ever-expanding array of resources for Christian educators as they continue the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ.

Sponsored by the North American Division and General Conference Department of Education, CIRCLE is managed from the Andrews University School of Education (Berrien Springs, Michigan) and hosted by Walla

> **CIRCLE, the Seventh-day Adventist Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center Linking Educators, connects those who have resources with those who need them anytime, anywhere.**

Walla College (College Place, Washington). CIRCLE's goal is to provide quick and easy access to quality Adventist education resources that might otherwise never be discovered. Why should any teacher waste time and talents on reinventing the wheel?

Since its August 2000 launching, CIRCLE has grown to include more than 4,000 entries in 345 categories, specifically selected for Adventist teachers, principals, superintendents, union education directors, college faculty, and teacher educators. CIRCLE serves many through its Web-accessible database, but also provides personal help through e-mail, fax, phone, and mail queries.

Easier Access to Quality Curriculum

Teachers will find high-quality faith-integrating instructional tools through CIRCLE. In a 1997 global study, Adventist secondary teachers indicated which resources they most needed to integrate faith in their discipline. The top six were textbook supplements and guides (89 percent), sample lesson plans (88 percent), workshops and training sessions (86 percent), opportunities to share faith experiences with other teachers around the globe (84 percent), indexes of high-quality faith teaching materials (75 percent), and the JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION (72 percent).[1] CIRCLE now provides quick and easy access to many of the following:

• Curriculum guides from North America,[2] Australia,[3] Southern Asia,[4] and Britain[5];

• Order information for textbooks and text supplements;

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* The characters introduced in this paragraph do not exist, but represent real people with real problems.

• Links to course outlines and lesson plans;

• Ten-plus years of JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION[6] articles online;

• Adventist school directories and college lists by division, union, and conference;

• Administrative forms and school evaluation instruments;

• School guidelines and policy manuals;

• Faith-integration teacher-training materials developed and used by educational administrators on several continents[7];

• Direct links to Adventist ministries and service opportunities[8];

• Research results from Profile studies, Valuegenesis,[9] and other studies on Adventist education; and

• Links to key Adventist education online services: APN,[10] Edforum,[11] AVLN,[12] ADEC,[13] CATnet,[14] and the new General Conference Education Website.[15]

Clearly, CIRCLE has made Adventist-designed curriculum a priority. However, other submissions that support the church's education philosophy are included. To ensure compatibility with the purposes of Adventist education, each entry is reviewed by CIRCLE staff and/or specialists in the subject/topic. Despite this, Adventist educators

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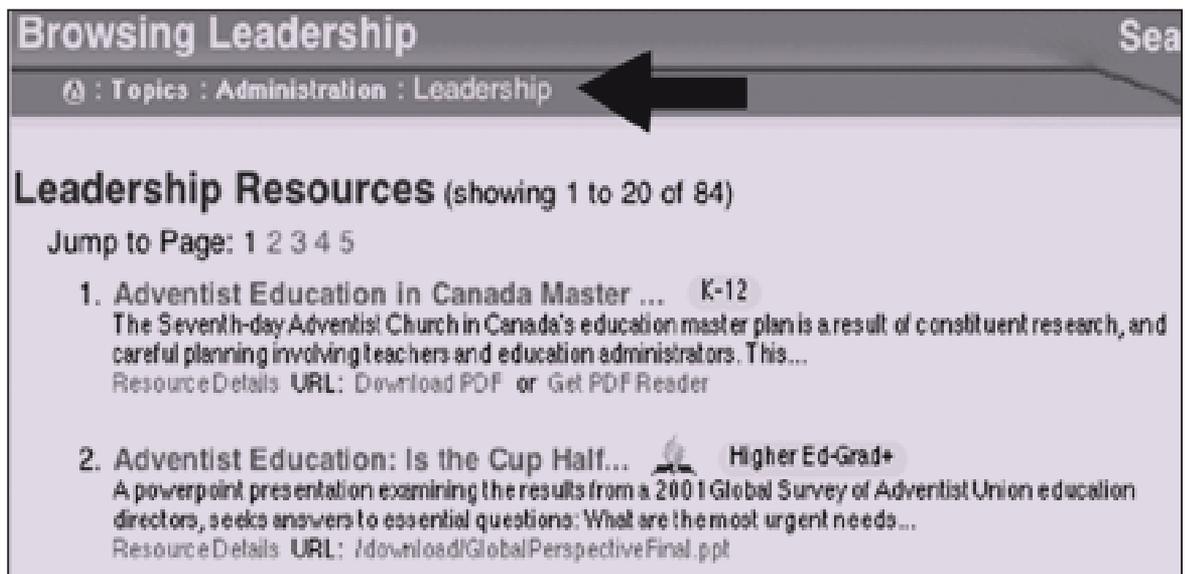
will still need to evaluate resources for appropriateness to their unique setting. While many of the resources available are Web-based with links that are regularly checked and updated, some are not available online (for example, copyrighted books available only from a publisher). For these, full ordering information is provided.

Access Tailored to Teacher Preferences

Browsing and searching are two popular methods to find resources through CIRCLE's Website. Profile 2004 research[16] revealed that of those who answered the question, 89 percent found the search feature helpful, and 84 percent considered browsing an effective database access method. Here are some suggestions for browsing or searching CIRCLE:

1. When and How to Browse

Because Principal Phiri needs general help for a new school initiative, he might browse or scan through CIRCLE's administrative topics resource listings first. Key information (grade range, origin, brief abstract, and direct link online if available) is provided succinctly. More details are available by clicking

Browsing Leadership   Sea

@ : Topics : Administration : Leadership

Leadership Resources (showing 1 to 20 of 84)
Jump to Page: 1 2 3 4 5

1. Adventist Education In Canada Master ...   K-12
   The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada's education master plan is a result of constituent research, and careful planning involving teachers and education administrators. This...
   Resource Details URL: Download PDF or Get PDF Reader

2. Adventist Education: Is the Cup Half...   Higher Ed-Grad+
   A powerpoint presentation examining the results from a 2001 Global Survey of Adventist Union education directors, seeks answers to essential questions: What are the most urgent needs...
   Resource Details URL: /download/GlobalPerspectiveFinal.ppt

Contact Information

The CIRCLE staff and administrators would like to hear any suggestions, comments, or concerns you may have. The quickest way to reach them is to use the feedback form on the Website. You may also contact them using any of the methods listed below.

Snail Mail: CIRCLE Webmaster
              Andrews University School of Education
              Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0118

Phone: USA (269) 471-3432
Fax: USA (269) 471-6374
E-Mail: webmaster@circle.adventist.org

on a specific title. The *wayfinder* indicates the path or way selected through subject or topic categories, making it easy to return to previous pages.

2. When and How to Search

As Professor Ericsen has a specific topic in mind, typing several keywords, such as *Adventist history course outlines*, will quickly access all matching entries in CIRCLE for him. If the keywords he used do not return adequate results, he could try

others or check the list of keywords by clicking on the Search Helps in the right sidebar. He can also contact CIRCLE directly for further assistance.

As the database grows, CIRCLE's *advanced search* and *filter* features will become even more useful. Search or browse results can be limited to a preferred level, language, date entered, resource origin, or type using the filter tool, available in the right sidebar of result pages. (See below.) Note that filters remain active until deleted (by clicking on the trash can beside the filter name) or when the user's browser is closed. Multiple filters can be set at any time, including resource type, language, date added to the database, and origin.

Services: Submissions and Surveys

To facilitate collaboration and excellence in Adventist education, CIRCLE provides three additional services: resource submissions, online surveys, and banner advertising.
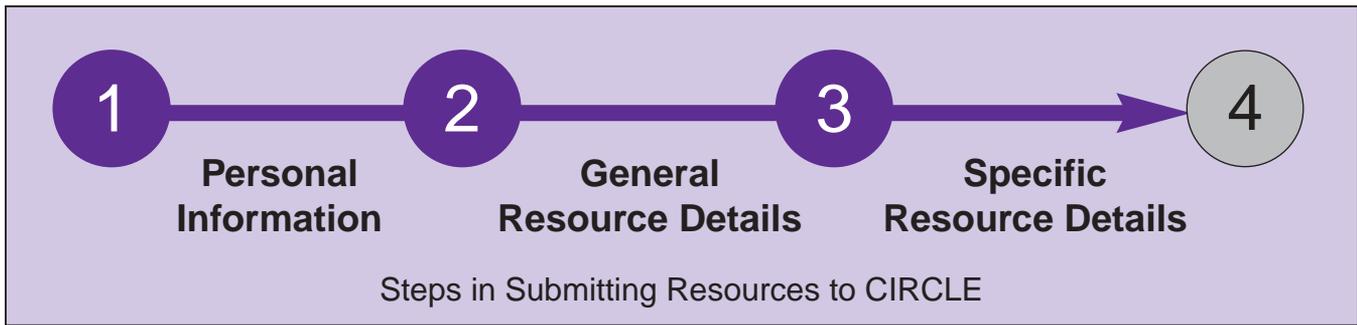
1. Resource Submissions

Although Janet Curran,

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the teacher from Idaho, will appreciate lists of Adventist Bible textbooks and downloadable curriculum guides,

she might find course outlines and lesson plans of greater practical value. While many education Web-sites provide a wealth of lesson plans, CIRCLE serves the unique Adventist education niche. Have you developed a faith-integrating unit for Grade 5? A physics course? A WebQuest? Published an article or book? Created a game? Recently revised your policy manual? Share these materials through CIRCLE, and save Olaf Ericsen, Ephraim Phiri, and many

other Adventist educators time and money!

First, embed your name and contact information in the document. Then use the simple three-step process to submit it at http://circle.adventist.org/submit/. (See above.) To ensure quality and appropriateness, all resources are screened. After being approved, they can be accessed online anytime, anywhere.

It is encouraging to note that about 70 percent of the almost 600 North American teachers, education administrators, faculty, and teacher educators who participated in the Profile 2004 research[17] were familiar with CIRCLE. However, its real value will not be realized until more users contribute and give back to CIRCLE.

2. Online Surveys

Users can save time and money and reach more Adventist educators with CIRCLE's online survey service. For a one-time set-up fee, CIRCLE will create a survey online and when requested, transfer the data files at a click. This can save mailing and data-entry costs, and reduce research time. For more information, see http://circle.adventist.org/utils/surveys/surveyinfo.phtml/.

3. Banner Advertising (See below)

Attractive banner advertisements can help educators find key resources, information about upcoming events,

and teacher-training/continuing-education options. Featuring a program or product on CIRCLE allows schools and advertisers to reach the unique market of Adventist educators, students, and parents around the world. Four advertising options allow specifically targeted marketing at affordable rates. Find details at http://circle.adventist.org/utils/ads/brochure.phtml/.

New Developments

CIRCLE was designed to be efficient and flexible, yet user-friendly. More than half of the Profile 2004 respondents who reported using CIRCLE said they found the site easy to use. Site improvement and dead link management are ongoing. Field testing and user surveys provide important feedback to ensure optimal service.

Two new developments will facilitate greater resource sharing: multilingual management and *Star* publications.

A Multilingual Clearinghouse

Exciting developments have just begun. Initial translation of CIRCLE's Website navigation and helps have been completed in French, Spanish, and Portuguese, as well as programming to allow regional administration of each specific language's entries. Resources contributed by Adventist curriculum specialists on several continents have

been eagerly received by world division education directors. Church membership growth in new areas will demand education resources for local schools. CIRCLE connects those who have resources with those who need them, across continents, divisions, unions, conferences, tribes, and language boundaries.

Star Resources

To increase quality resource sharing, CIRCLE is in the process of launching a new rating system—*Star* resources. Realizing that a quality guide or review can shorten the time it takes to find excellent lesson plans, forms, curricula or other instructional aids, CIRCLE's new *Star* resource plan will encourage teachers to submit their best creations. With a completed self-review form, teachers can submit their own valuable resources for a *Star* review. If the peer-review process judges the submission as qualified for *Star* status, it will be listed with a star beside the title (remember those gold stars on perfect papers?) on CIRCLE's Website and in a bi-annual CIRCLE *Star* Resource Journal. Negotiations are underway to qualify *Star* publication authors for continuing-education credit, and *Star* publications should be an asset on résumés submitted for Adventist education positions.

Join the ROSE CIRCLE

In a recent article in this journal,

Bob Paulson invited Adventist higher-education institutions to collaborate.[19] This idea makes sense for all levels. And it can begin with you—anytime, anywhere. Sharing your most valued high-quality curriculum and instruction resources through CIRCLE will help more Adventist schools, colleges, and training centers be Redemption-Oriented Schools of Excellence.[20] ✎

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Glynis Bradfield, M.A. *(Curriculum), directs the development and operation of CIRCLE at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She has experience in teaching, administration, and curriculum development in international missions and Adventist primary and secondary small schools.* **Randy J. Siebold, Ph.D.** *(Instructional Design), is the Andrews University School of Education Faculty Coordinator, directing CIRCLE design. He has consulted and presented on curriculum design and development at all levels, both nationally and internationally, with special emphasis in online delivery.* **Faith-Ann McGarrell, M.A.** *(English), manages the CIRCLE database and newsletters. Currently a Curriculum and Instruction Ph.D. student, she has taught English in grades 7-12, college composition, and graduate-level curriculum-design courses.*

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Paul Brantley, "Sharing a Common Faith: A Global Study of God-Centered Teaching in Adventist High Schools," *Journal of Adventist Education* 62:5 (Summer 2000), http://www.ssd.org/Education/jae/articles/jae200062051105p.pdf.

2. See http://nadeducation.adventist.org/ for

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the North American Division curriculum guides, textbook lists, administrative documents, job listings, and contact information for K-12 schools and NAD colleges/universities online. The new Journey to Excellence Website at http://www.journeytoexcellence.org/ will guide school improvement and change in the 21st century, as it is founded on the philosophy, goals, and essential core elements foundational to this curriculum initiative.

3. See http://www.adventist.edu.au/ for Australian education materials. Curriculum guides may not be available to all users from this site but can be requested and are worth consulting as any world region develops a new curriculum. The South Pacific Division curriculum frameworks are insightful guides for integrating faith into the curriculum development process: http://circle.adventist.org/browse/resource.phtml?leaf=2722/.

4. See http://www.ssd.org/REBIRTH/index.htm/ for the REBIRTH Christ-Centered Virtues Education tools, Bible textbooks, and textbook supplements. Links to *Journal of Adventist Education* articles online (searchable by author, subject, and title) and contact information for SSD schools and colleges make this a valuable online resource.

5. See http://www.adventist-education.org.uk/curriculum_documents/curriculumdocs.htm for the British Union Adventist primary and secondary curriculum guides available online.

6. See http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae/ or http://circle.adventist.org to search online for *Journal of Adventist Education* articles or browse the archive list of articles organized by publication through the Southern Asia-Pacific Division's education pages at http://www.ssd.org/Education/jae/web/archives.html/.

7. Highly recommended examples: (a) Don Roy's "Towards Wholeness" seminars for training teachers in the distinctiveness of Adventist education at http://www.adventist.edu.au/public/publication.asp?ssid=5&sid=393; (b) AVLN Faith Integration Modules at http://avln.org/faith/core.htm; and (c) the Adventist philosophy of education statement at http://circle.adventist.org/browse/resource.phtml?leaf=2410. Or access 150 other options through http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=43/.

8. See http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=40 for more than 90 service options!

9. See http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=252 for a complete list of Valuegenesis² reports or visit the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry online at http://www.lasierra.edu/centers/hcym/ for more information about both Valuegenesis studies and other publications of value to educators.

10. See http://apn.adventist.org/ for the Adventist Professionals' Network (APN), a global registry of Seventh-day Adventist professionals who hold a degree in any field. Housed at the world headquarters of the church, APN will help locate candidates for positions, consultants with expertise, and volunteers for short mission assignments. It also fosters international networking among Adventists in various professions.

11. See http://edforum.adventist.org/ for Adventist Education Forum, managed by the Michigan Conference for the North American Division Office of Education. Edforum provides Adventist educators with a place online to discuss current issues, ask questions, and develop community with Adventist colleagues.

12. See http://avln.org for information about the Adventist Virtual Learning Network and its services. AVLN promotes global online collaboration for lifelong learning among Seventh-day Adventists and other faith-based organizations. Visit their Website to learn more about six excellent courses, approved for NAD certification renewal, currently available online: "Active Online Teaching," "Active Online Courses," "Technology in the Early Elementary Classroom," "Developing WebQuests," "Integrating Technology in the Curriculum," and "Internet Research and Projects." Every Adventist teacher will benefit by reviewing the faith-integration modules on this site.

13. See http://sdaedu.org/ for the Adventist Distance Education Consortium, a group of 13 Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities in North America whose goal is to offer a central information source to college students seeking distance-learning courses. The mission of the consortium is to enable its member institutions to develop, promote, and deliver high-quality Christian distance-education programs for the benefit of motivated independent learners. Visit their Website to discover courses available for credit across institutions.

14. See http://catnet.sdacc.org/ for the frequently updated Canadian Adventist Teachers Network, which keeps isolated teachers communicating with colleagues and connected with education resources within and beyond their union.

15. See http://education.gc.adventist.org/ for the newly designed General Conference Education Website with valuable resources for Adventist higher education, including accreditation documents and procedures, a comprehensive list of contact information for all accredited colleges and universities, *Dialogue*, Institute for Christian Teaching, and more.

16. Profile 2004 data used with permission of the research team: Larry Burton, principal investigator; and Pretoria St. Juste, project director, both from the Andrews University School of Education in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.

19. Bob Paulson, "A New Game! Can We Play as a Team?" *Journal of Adventist Education* 65:4 (April/May 2003), http://www.ssd.org/Education/jae/articles/jae200365044603.pdf/.

20. C. Garland Dulan, "Is Adventist Education Worth It?" *Journal of Adventist Education* 66:3 (February/March 2004), http://education.gc.adventist.org/Rose.pdf/.