

## Help with library needs of international and offshore students

When we heard that Incite was having a themed issue on international connections and engagement, it seemed the perfect opportunity to tell library colleagues about the IDP Database of Research on International Education. Established in 2003, the IDP Database is used by people in the international education industry for research and reading on the issues they face working with international students. For library and information professionals dealing with international and offshore students' needs, this database may well have resources to help.

The aim of the IDP Database is to bring together from disparate sources, and make easily accessible, a solid selection of the research outputs from numerous disciplines with an interest in the international student industry – education naturally, but also extending to fields such as economics, marketing, immigration, psychology, and tourism.

The database indexes books, articles, theses and reports on international education topics – international students, transnational education, export education, study abroad, student recruitment, international schools, and offshore programs. It is international in coverage, indexing publications from around the world, with the majority of content coming from the major education exporting countries – the US, UK, New Zealand, Canada and Australia.

The IDP Database is funded as a free service to all by IDP Education Pty Ltd, first established by Australian universities in 1969 and now a global company offering student placement and English language testing services. The database is produced for IDP by the Indexing Services team of Cunningham Library, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). Cunningham Library also produce the Australian Education

Index, the Australasian Education Directory, and the DE Hub Database of Research on Distance Education, while ACER is more widely known for its publishing through ACER Press and its work on educational assessment programs like PISA and NAPLAN.

The IDP Database has fostered connections between individual researchers around the world as they have discovered the work of others, and presented their own, via the IDP Database. This has led to collaborations, speaking invitations and publishing opportunities, and further research in this specialist area. Cunningham Library staff attended the recent Australian International Education Conference in Sydney, where papers presented highlighted the depth and breadth of research now being undertaken into what is now one of Australia's biggest exports - education. It was an additional thrill for staff to meet 'in real life' a number of recent and long term users of the database from interstate and overseas.

Content includes articles specifically on international and offshore student needs as library users (plug in librar\* to have a browse) and PhD theses by Australian librarians who have conducted research into international student topics. Check them out at [http://www.idp.com/research/database\\_of\\_research.aspx](http://www.idp.com/research/database_of_research.aspx) and stay in touch with new international education research at <http://twitter.com/idpdrie>.

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**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

Explore Christmas through Trove

[trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

The screenshot shows the Trove website interface with a search bar containing the word 'Christmas'. Below the search bar, there are statistics: 2438 selected this year, 2242 newspaper Christmas tales, 17 audio recordings for audio, 8170 items tagged for audio, and 838 Christmas the month. A grid of eight categories is displayed: Books, journals, magazines, articles; Pictures and photos; Digitized newspapers and more; Diaries, letters, archives; Maps; Music, sound and video; Archived websites (1996 - now); and About people and organisations.