

AMS Research Committee Online Resources

AMS frequently receives requests from individuals looking for research that supports the outcomes of a Montessori education. Even though one definitive study proving that Montessori education “works” does not exist, numerous studies do support that effective student learning and best teacher practices occur in Montessori classrooms. The AMS Research web page has many resources available to help you find current Montessori research on a variety of topics. Highlights of these resources are provided below.

The **AMS Research Library** contains abstracts and full texts of 15 **DISSERTATIONS & THESES** involving Montessori education. Complete presentations from recent AMS conference sessions on Montessori research are available in the library as well under **RESEARCH**. Finally, full texts of Montessori research related **JOURNAL ARTICLES** published in *Science*, *Teacher’s College Record*, and *Montessori Life* are available as well. One of these is arguably the most high profile study on Montessori education conducted recently. A study published in the September 29, 2006 issue of *Science* reports that “at least when strictly implemented, Montessori education fosters social and academic skills that are equal or superior to those fostered by...other types of schools.” The study is titled “The Early Years: Evaluating Montessori Education” and the authors are Angeline Lillard and Nicole Else-Quest.

AMS **Resources for Researchers** provide tools for researchers looking for support in conducting research involving Montessori education. Links to bibliographies and databases are available. Details of these resources are outlined below.

Annotated Bibliography of Montessori Articles in Non-Montessori Publications

Originally published in *Montessori Life* (2007, Vol. 16, No. 1, p. 72 – 79), “Montessori Education and Practice: A Review of the Literature, 1996-2006” by Janet Hall Bagby, contains a bibliography of articles about Maria Montessori and/or the Montessori Method of education published in non-Montessori periodicals.

NAMTA Bibliography

The North American Montessori Teachers’ Association (NAMTA) maintains an up-to-date online bibliography containing more than 18,000 citations of Montessori sources published in English from 1909 to present. Updated on a quarterly basis, the bibliography is searchable and categorized by more than 300 keywords. Copies of most articles are available from the NAMTA Archives at a nominal cost. Subscriptions to the bibliography are available for \$10 for NAMTA members or \$20 for nonmembers.

ERIC Database

The Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) offers an extensive, regularly updated, online digital library of education research and information. The database—which is available free-of-charge—is sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. *Montessori Life* is catalogued there, along with many other publications in the field of education outside the Montessori community, including journal articles, books, research syntheses, conference papers, technical reports, and policy papers. In particular, ERIC comprehensively indexes peer-reviewed education journals.

The **AMS Research Committee White Paper series** is another resource for Montessori researchers. The purpose of the white paper series is to provide answers to common questions as well as insight on some of the challenges frequently encountered in the study of Montessori education. This series will be updated regularly, so continue to check the web site for new material.

White Paper#1: Topics for Montessori Researchers
White Paper#2: Challenges of Montessori Research

One of the goals of the AMS Research Committee is to have a strong presence of Montessori educators participating both in AMS and in organizations beyond AMS. Our participation in other conferences and organizations serves to broaden the awareness to other educators about Montessori education. The AMS website contains links to quickly direct you to information about the conference schedules for **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**, **Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)**, **Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)**, and **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**.

All of this and more can be found at the AMS Research web page: <http://www.amshq.org/research.htm>