International higher education bibliography

*Instalment No. 1, Parts 1 and 2*

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Beginning with this issue, the journal is inaugurating a new service for readers: a two-part annual instalment of an international bibliography on higher education comprising articles from key periodicals in the field. Its appearance is indicative of the growing maturity of the field in terms of both the quantity and quality of research being produced around the world, as well as the diversity of the topics being addressed. Higher education as a discipline of study is no longer restricted to mere description of higher educational systems, or analysis of the traditional, institutionally-focused, practitioner-oriented issues (such as governance, budget management, student learning and curricula) but as the pages of different numbers of this journal demonstrate, the research agenda has expanded to include broader macro-level issues, such as those that concern relations between society and higher education.

While the usefulness of this service to readers is self-evident — at the very least it will keep readers abreast of new developments and research in the field across the globe, thereby obviating the need to wade through traditional bibliographic tools such as the various general education indexes, which tend to be both cumbersome and not so readily accessible — a few words on the substantive significance of the bibliography for the field is in order. A current bibliography, such as this one, viewed longitudinally over the years is analogous, in terms of its significance for the field, to the rings in the trunk of a tree. It charts the periods of growth and fallow, it indicates changes in the knowledge “climate” (paradigm shifts), it shows what and when major new “nutritional” inputs (concepts, theoretical perspectives, etc.) were incorporated, it reveals new areas of research focus, and so on. Thus for example, succeeding instalments of this bibliography should indicate the presence of a slow but definite trend in the field toward expansion from the level of simply an *applied* social science to one of social science proper, involving incorporation of theoretical concepts, perspectives, and insights from other social science disciplines as new discipline-specific theories and perspectives are generated. This trend heralds the possibility of a healthy

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dialectical interplay between theory and practice from which all in the field should benefit: researchers as well as practitioners.

To take another example: the various instalments will show, as this one already does, that while the increasingly wide range of topics being addressed demonstrates growth and vibrancy it also exposes the fact of the relative infancy of the field. Under circumstances of unbridled diversity in research topics and questions, growth of a coherent corpus of *base* knowledge — which constitutes one of the fundamental characteristics of a mature discipline — built by means of a steady accretion of output from researchers working on the same research terrain, but with different approaches and methodologies, is inhibited.

Current bibliographies then, are clearly of considerable meta-theoretical significance, for not only are they repositories of historiographically important genealogical tracings, but also constitute a summary of the discipline, which among other things lends it diagnostic significance, hence further enhancing its meta-theoretical importance.

Turning now to formal details of this particular instalment, users may wish to note the following: the bibliography comprises items from the specific issues indicated (of the journals listed below) that appeared in 1986 and early 1987. Space limitations, as well as inaccessibility to some issues of a number of journals, explains why not all journals (or all issues of a journal) listed below are covered in this instalment. They will be covered, if available, in Instalment No. 2, Part 1, scheduled for publication early 1988, which will also include journal issues published in the first half of 1987.

Since only higher education journals are covered by this bibliography, articles on higher education appearing elsewhere, specifically in other education journals, do not appear here. Users therefore may wish to enhance the usefulness of this bibliography by using it in conjunction with a counterpart bibliography, published along similar lines to this one, appearing in the journal: *Comparative Education Review*.

Comments on the usefulness of this service as well as suggestions for expanding its coverage are welcome.

**Journals**

*Academe*

*Australian Universities' Review* (Vol. 29, nos. 1–2 [1986])

*Canadian Journal of Higher Education*

*Change* 18, nos. 1–6 [1986]; 19, nos. 1–2 [1987]

*Counterpart*

*CRe-Information* nos. 73–75 [1986], no. 77 [1987]

*Educational Record*