

Effective supervision of creative practice higher research degrees:

SUPERVISION – Matrix of Existing Resources

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supervisioncreativeartsphd.net

Resources	Type	Access	Major points of information	Reach/scope	Strengths	Limitations vis-a-vis this project
The Thesis Whisperer	Blog	www.thethesiswhisperer.com (open access) Edited by Dr Inger Mewburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishes fortnightly • Encourages guest contributors • Variety of topic • Extensive links and other information (such as Mewburn’s own workshop material) • Anecdotal discussions and advice for HDR students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly targeted at HDR students rather than supervisors • Does have a regular contributor, Dr Sarah Louise Quinell on the topic of supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds community • Shared experiences and insights • Consistently updating • Has a broad audience, social media diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discipline specific • Archive material difficult to access – search function only or recommendations • No information on practice-led research • Not targeted to supervisors
FIRST	Online resource	www.first.edu.au (requires institutional password) FIRST research project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collection of resources, including case studies, bibliographies, workshops, tools etc • governed by a Steering Committee (re-elected ever 2 years) • Committee peer-reviews resources for inclusion • on the website • National focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at supervisors and developers of supervision training • Australia wide • Some brief info for students • Difficult to measure its reach – some indicators suggest that resources are not being utilised as widely as intended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast collection of information • Well organised information that is easy to access • Significant bibliography • Focus on professionalisation of supervision practice • Clearly structured around a pedagogical framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No community building or participatory aspect– although the opportunity exists for anonymous commenting • Unclear how up-to-date the information is, needs increased sense of currency • No information on practice-led research
Resources for Supervisors	Document	http://eprints.qut.edu.au/28542/ (open access) Christine Bruce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive document that introduces pedagogical aspects of supervision • Encourages conversation around supervision practice and self-reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at supervisors • Is accessible via the ePrints open access website (but only 150ish downloads since 2009) • Linked from the OLT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough, well researched, pedagogical framework • Strategy focussed rather than discussion paper • Most in-depth discussion of supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works best in a printed form rather than online • No specific information on practice-led research

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedagogies (9) • Supervisor approaches (3) • Supervisor strategies (8) • Supervisor roles (3) 	page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic and applicable across the board • Makes recommendations to improve supervision practice 	
The (research) Supervisor's Friend	Blog	http://supervisorsfriend.wordpress.com (open access) Dr Geof Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates fortnightly • Discussion based • Focus on supervision • Primarily anecdotal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision focussed – no other interest areas • Hill is the only contributor • Difficult to tell the size of its audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision only • Frequently updated • Some stable links to supervision pedagogy information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear organisation – have to use archive (although site is not enormous) • Not community of contributors • Minor reference to creative arts (one post) – but not practice-led
Doctoral Writing SIG	Blog	http://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com (open access)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates fortnightly • Moderated by 4 academics • Discussion based • Primarily anecdotal • No specific focus on supervision although it is definitely included • The blog is still young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at doctoral students • Designed to encourage discussion, swap info, reference library, question answered etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagging system helps identify posts • Informal discussions • Multiple moderators • Early stage, but some comments are beginning to be generated • Recommended readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog style organisation – tagging, search function, archives • No specific mention of practice-led research
6 month scoping project: practice based PhD supervision	Blog/ resources	http://ualscopingproject.wordpress.com/ (open access) Dr Mark Ingham of the University of Arts London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update since June 2012 (sporadic until then) • Part of a scoping project – unclear if it has received ongoing or further funding • Specific focus on practice based PhD supervision: ONLY OTHER identified so far 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly foregrounding for a research project • No clear impression if there is ongoing research • A draft literature review was published in May 2010 • Aimed at any interested party in supervision of creative practice PhDs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies existing literature • Some sense of community – minimal engagement with existing content • Suggests the possibility for research • International focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static site, appears to no longer be functioning regularly • Draft literature review is unfinished • No link to publishable material • Some static links but mostly archival organisation

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