



Teen Reading in the Digital Era

61%

of Australian teens identify difficulty in choosing a good book as a barrier to them reading more.*

48%

say that having more good books at their school library would help them read more.*

But what do teens think are good books?

And how do they find good books in an increasingly saturated entertainment market?

We are researchers from Deakin University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Canterbury (NZ).

Our new research project will answer these questions by mapping the network of influences that shape young people's reading practices by exploring:

- the sociocultural contexts of teenagers' everyday lives
- the digital ecology of reading
- the role of cultural intermediaries

We are currently recruiting schools to participate in a national survey of secondary school students asking teens about their reading practices and preferences. **Turn the page for more information or watch a video introduction to the project here:**

<https://youtu.be/w7yW4cRgW4Q>



Research partners



Project Title: Discovering a 'Good Read': Pathways to reading for Australian teens in a digital age

Researchers:

Associate Professor Leonie Rutherford, Professors Katya Johanson and Andrew Singleton (Deakin University); Professor Michael Dezuanni (Queensland University of Technology); Associate Professor Donald Matheson (University of Canterbury).

Project Outline:

We are investigating young Australians' leisure reading tastes and practices and the people and systems that influence their choices. To do this, we are surveying secondary school students to learn about how they find books and other reading material they enjoy reading. Our aim is to use this information to inform strategies to address declining library use and recreational reading in adolescence. This research is funded by grants from the Australian Research Council (Project LP180100258) and the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the Deakin University Human Research Ethics Committee (#2019-455).

School participation:

We seek permission to survey selected classes in government, Catholic, and independent schools in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. We would like to survey two classes per year level, selected by the school. The survey can be answered either in class or at a time convenient to students.

We would also like to interview an English teacher and a teacher-librarian or school librarian for approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

Student participation:

Students will be asked to complete a survey that asks about their reading habits and preferences. The survey will be conducted virtually on a device such as a phone, computer, or tablet. The survey is hosted on the QUALTRICS online survey platform and will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Participation is voluntary and students do not have to answer any questions they don't want to. They can withdraw at any point until the survey is completed and submitted.



CONTACT US

If you would like to register interest in your school participating in our research, please contact

Dr Bronwyn Reddan at bronwyn.reddan@deakin.edu.au



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