



research reveals...

an update on gambling research in ALBERTA

About The Alberta Gaming Research Institute

The Alberta Gaming Research Institute is a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge. Its primary purpose is to support and promote research into gaming and gambling in the province. The Institute's identified research domains include bio-psychological and health care, socio-cultural, economic, and government and industry policy and practice. The Institute aims to achieve international recognition in gaming-related research. It is coordinated by a Board of Directors working in collaboration with the Alberta Gaming Research Council. The Institute is funded by the Alberta government through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

OUR MISSION:

To significantly improve Albertans' knowledge of how gambling affects society

Your comments and queries are welcome either by e-mail abgaming@ualberta.ca or phone 780.492.2856.

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The Alberta Gaming Research Institute web site has a new look

By Rhys Stevens, Institute Librarian & Information Specialist

AN ESSENTIAL FUNCTION of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute is to disseminate information about gambling research. One of the most effective tools utilized to carry out this task has been the Institute's web site (<http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca>). In the space of just three years, the web site has developed a reputation as one of the most important and trusted sources of gambling research in the world. The Institute site has recently been graphically redesigned and some of the contents and links reorganized in an effort to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

Looking back, it's hard to fathom that few people were even aware of the Internet and Word Wide Web (WWW) in the early 1990's. It wasn't until the development and introduction of the graphical web browser that sparked the immense popularity of the WWW. Once people became aware of the web's ability to make useful information readily accessible, it wasn't long before millions of information-rich web sites were created. These days, the first thought of many people is to locate a particular organizations' web site to find out more information about its operations.

As the WWW has evolved, traditional users of research-related web sites such as academics and post-secondary students have become more demanding of online services. These users have increasingly come to expect well-designed and highly organized web sites, up-to-date information, access to "full-text" reports, and specialized search capabilities. The Institute has expended considerable effort to develop such features in making its web site a top destination for gambling researchers and the general public. In addition to content and organization redevelopment, the Institute continues to offer several innovative online resources available through the web site. Examples include the *Gambling Literature Database* (<http://gaming.uleth.ca>) and the *DSPACE Digitization Initiative* (<https://dspace.ucalgary.ca>) which is being undertaken collaboratively with the University of Calgary Image Centre.

For individuals who haven't recently visited the Institute's web site, the following descriptions provide an indication of what is available and how it could be useful to your research:

Institute-sponsored research

The web site's 'Research' section contains descriptions of all projects that have received funding support from the Institute since its inception as well as details about



the funding application process. The information is organized by the type of funding program from which it received support (Small Grants, Major Grants, Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Grants). Descriptions of each of these research projects are included together with details of the project's completion status. Projects indicated as being complete contain either an online version (.PDF) of the project report or information about where the journal article was published and how to access it. Several contain QuickTime videos that can be viewed online.

Other Institute-sponsored research available online includes five comprehensive literature reviews/bibliographies that were published in 2000.

Institute-sponsored conferences & symposia

The 'Events' section of the web site contains an archive of presentations and program details from the Institute's *Annual Conference on Gambling Research* which first took place in 2002. In addition, Visiting Speakers are periodically invited to make presentations at the Institute universities on topics of current relevance. The content, or summaries, of these are also included on the web site. Another area of interest to researchers is the regularly updated calendar of important upcoming gambling-related conference dates and submission deadlines.

Gambling research "Gateway"

A "gateway" web site is one that functions as a starting point for individuals interested in a particular topic. It does so by providing a selection of relevant online resources that have been selected and evaluated by an individual familiar with the subject. The 'Library Resources' section of the web site functions as a gateway for gambling research. It provides extensive listings and descriptions of numerous resources (e.g. journal & newsletter titles, library catalogues, reference sources, government reports,

etc.). Some are available online as well as in print. This gateway is an essential resource for both those new to the field as well as those attempting to keep abreast of new research developments. It greatly assists people interested in effectively and efficiently locating the most relevant and reliable sources. Institute Librarian, Mr. Rhys Stevens, has developed this gateway and maintains it regularly by closely monitoring developments pertaining to the literature.

Gambling news & Institute newsletter

Access to a selection of newspaper articles that report on issues of interest to gambling researchers can be both very convenient as well as informative. The 'Gambling News' section of the web site provides summaries of all relevant gambling articles published in major Alberta and national dailies since May 2001. For those interested in obtaining a copy of an entire article, the Institute has an arrangement with Bowden's Media Monitoring which allows a limited number of copies to be provided to requestors.

The Institute newsletter '*Research Reveals...an update on gambling research in Alberta*' is another indispensable source of news on gambling research. It is published bi-monthly and all current and past issues are available in the 'Newsletter' section of the site.

Institute administration

Documents that pertain to the operations of the Institute are located in the 'About the Institute' section of the web site. Examples of items that can be found here include all previous Institute Annual Report (2001+), Business Plans, and Report Cards. Details of the Institute's Board of Directors and contact information for Institute personnel are also available. For those interested in assisting the Institute in a research capacity, job and volunteer opportunities are listed in the 'People Matters' section of the site.

Recent institute initiatives

2003/04 Annual Report and Report card

The 2003/04 Annual Report and Report card (.PDF) have been posted on the Institute website (<http://www.abgaminginstitute.ualberta.ca/about.htm>). Paper copies are also available at no cost, please contact the Institute by phone at 780.492.2856 or by e-mail at abgaming@ualberta.ca.

Institute history

A historical overview of the development and activities of the Alberta Gaming Research Institute is currently being written. It is anticipated that the document will be completed in the late fall. When available, it will be posted on the Institute website and a notice posted in the following issue of 'Research reveals...'

2004-05 Research grants

The 2004-05 major grant allocations will be awarded by the end of October. Shortly thereafter, a listing and brief description of the funded projects will be posted on the web site.

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