IFÉ : research, training and mediation
IFE: research, training, knowledge mediation

- **1950's: INRP – National Institute for Pedagogical Research**
  - founded as a public agency dealing with production and dissemination of knowledge regarding education
  - moved from Paris to Lyon in 2003 – context of renovation

- **2011: IFÉ – French Institute of Education**
  - merged into École normale supérieure de Lyon (ENS) – a HEI that could be compared to an elite university
  - maintains still strong relationship with the Ministry of school education (an heritage) and more recently also with the Ministry in charge of higher education

- **One of the key French players in the field of educational research**
  - besides teacher training departments (ESPE) and research labs in universities
  - more focused on resource design and experimental research than purely academic research
  - various interactions with educational communities (local authorities, Inspectorates, schools)

http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/
V&A unit: monitoring, mapping and reviewing

« Veille et analyses »: an intelligence unit providing free and full web document services

- created in 2003 as « Veille scientifique et technologique » (VST)
- renamed « Veille et analyses » (V&A) in 2011

http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/vst/

Now a major player both like a distributor and broker of scientific knowledge in France in the field of education

- composed of 6 skilled research analysts
  - 3/6 with a LIS background and 6/6 with a reflective practice on digital media
  - dealing with scientific (interdisciplinary) information retrieval and analysis on a daily basis, in correlation with professional information and political news
  - relying on a growing expertise in the quality of educational research
  - who build up a good knowledge of the European and North American educational systems
Interface between policy, research and practice

*Its general mandate: increase awareness of research results and help practitioners and policy-makers decide what is relevant for the evolution of their activities*

- Monitoring research production through its publications and its conferences and keeping on online record of the most valuable resources
- **Mapping out the key networks, main experts and core publications** on a particular topic and designing dedicated services to gather and disseminate such information
- **Reviewing the literature** in order to highlight commonalities and discrepancies between European and North American systems

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9 – 10 literature reviews / year

- A synthesis providing a viewpoint on research (not on practices, nor on policies)
- Integrating **research in and on education** (psychology, sociology, history, political science, LIS...)
- Offering an **international perspective** on research results, at a general/macro level
- With a strong concern for mobilizing **current knowledge** from research
- Awareness of **controversial issues** relevant for practitioners and/or policy-makers

*93 issues published*
15 – 30 pages published on a monthly basis, available online

- Some are available in English language
  - Primary education: students at risk (of dropping out), dec. 2012
  - Digital technologies in higher education: challenges and opportunities, oct. 2012
  - Etc.

The reviews are disseminated through:

- **Digital media**: online, mailing lists, social networks (twitter,...)
- **Printed media**: posters and leaflets (list of all reviews, thematic selection of reviews, abstract and Qr code for one particular review...)
- **Conferences** (and occasional training sessions)

**REVIEWING (since 2005-06)**

+8000 subscribers to our mailing list mainly « practitioners »

http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/vst/abonnement.php

- **Teacher trainers and teachers** (from primary education to lifelong learning settings)
- **Middle managers such as school leaders, inspectors**...
- **Academics and teaching and learning support staff**
- **8-10% from foreign countries (mainly French speaking)**
- **some information professionals (librarians, journalists...)**

Each review is downloaded from 5000 to 10000 times within the 6 first months after its publication

**TARGETING**
A cumulative and collective experience

The publications carefully selected, read and used in the reviews are collected with their abstracts in a collaborative bibliographic management system – Wikindx – and indexed using selected keywords (+8000 records since 2005)

http://wikindx.ens-lyon.fr/biblio_vst/

INDEXING (since 2006)

A bimonthly newsletter with updated publications and conferences

- + 160 peer-reviewed journals monitored (ToC)
- +4200 bibliographic records (books, PhD theses, gov. and research reports)
- +1300 conferences listed

MONITORING (since 2003)
Éduvelle: our team blog

http://eduvelle.hypotheses.org/

- An easy (and not too academic) way to comment on our findings, share our readings and report on attended conferences
- +500 posts since 2006

A pragmatic approach

- Common objectives and common final products
- Shared global methodology and peer-learning sessions (more or less formal)
- But individual ways of organising our own workstation and planning our tasks
- For the monitoring activity, a concentrated organisation (one person responsible for one type of publication) when strong traceability in terms of dissemination (eg journals and books)
- And a distributed functioning when numerous or opaque distribution channels (eg gov. and research reports)

Bibliographic databases & cie are not the Bible: mainly a way to monitor updates (new acquisitions, new ToC...) and to access full text!

- For the reviewing, the selection of relevant publications is made elsewhere
  - Depends on our prior knowledge of the topic and often relied on 2 or 3 « core » publications
  - Based on heterogeneous data (not only from books and journal articles): statistics, official or government documentation, activities of professional networks...
  - Various inclusion and exclusion criteria (not only bibliometrics): internal (quality of research) and external (consistency of author’s biography)
V&A bookmarks

• General website: http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/vst/

• List of reviews (Dossiers): http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/vst/DA/ListeDossiers.php

• Wikindx (team bibliographic management website): http://wikindx.ens-lyon.fr/

• Éduveille (team blog): http://eduveille.hypotheses.org/

Work in progress:

• Édupass: archive for reviews and other writings by V&A members http://edupass.hypotheses.org/

• ÉduObs: directory of researchers and junior researchers in education & training http://ife.ens-lyon.fr/eduObs/

Slides and documentation for download: http://eduveille.hypotheses.org/6464