Getting Started with Action Research
Welcome
Agenda

• What is Action Research?
• Action Researchers in action
• How Did Action Research Get Started?
• Varieties of Action Research
• Why should I Adopt Action Research?
• Doing Action Research
• Any Other Ideas?
What is Action Research?

• Action and Research at the same time
• Practitioners are the researchers
• Aims to create change
• Guiding principles
Action Researchers in action

• We have a problem
• Let’s think about it
• Coming up with an Action Plan
• Putting the Plan into action
• Observe the results
• Think some more ...
How Did Action Research Get Started?

- Precise origins are unclear
- A theory of Action Research – Kurt Levin mid 1940s.
- Post WWII Curriculum Development movement
- Teacher-Researcher movement 1970s

The Action Research Spiral

Kurt Lewin’s best remembered contribution to Action Research.
Varieties of Action Research

- Technical
- Practical
- Emancipatory
- A question of power

Why Should I Adopt Action Research?

- Control Over Teaching Situations
- Implement Changes Successfully
- Increased Ability to Innovate
- Building Collaboration and Team Skills
Doing Action Research
Stages in an Action Research Project

• Action Research Cycles

• Identify the Problem

• Involve the participants
Doing Action Research

Stages in an Action Research Project

**Cycle 1**
Plan
Act
Observe
Reflect

**Cycle 2**
Plan
Act
Observe
Reflect
Doing Action Research

Some Techniques for Data Collection

• Records
• Feedback from Students
• Diagnostic Devices
Any Other Ideas?

• Web resources
  Southern Cross University
• University of Sydney, Faculty of Health Sciences
• Hong Kong Action Learning Project
  http://alp.polyu.edu.hk/
• Queens University
  http://educ.queensu.ca/~ar/
• University of East Anglia
  http://www.uea.ac.uk/care