



Australasian Association for Institutional Research

Newsletter, Federal Government

May 2014

President's Update

by Dave Marr

We're well into another academic year and much is happening in the sector and for AAIR.

On 29 March the AAIR Executive Committee met in Melbourne for the first of several Strategic Planning Days. The Association is in a very strong position with a dedicated and enthusiastic membership supporting our current activities, namely the Annual Forum and SIG Forum. So it seemed timely to evaluate what AAIR represents currently for its members and therefore what possibilities we could explore in the future plans of AAIR.

The day was facilitated by Dr Daniel Moody from Ozemantics who led us through the Business Model Canvas's nine building blocks: customer segments; value to our members (the value proposition); channels; customer relationships; revenue streams; key activities; key resources; key partners; and cost structures. Within these we discussed: the various roles performed by our members under the banner of 'institutional research'; synergies with other professional, not-for-profit organisations such as ATEM and The Data Warehouse Institute (TDWI); and we undertook a SWOT analysis which highlighted some weaknesses but also some real opportunities. Also joining us for the day were Dr Josephine Palermo, Immediate Past President, and Dr Tas Osianlis and Robert Loughnane from Neodata Australia who have been sponsors of the SIG Forum for several years. It was great to have their involvement and I thank them for taking the time and effort to assist us in our discussions.

The next step will be to meet again to propose our 'vision' and 'objectives' alongside which we'll

develop our targets and their associated measures. Once they're developed, we'll be circulating these to you for your comments and feedback. Leading out of this we'll develop a one page Strategy Map for AAIR and a Balanced Scorecard which will inform the Executive Committee of just how we're going in delivering value to our members into the future.

As many of our members are planners, we felt it only appropriate to take a 'best practice' approach to the development of our Strategic Plan, something we haven't as an organisation properly attempted in the past. I look forward to your support and involvement in the next phases of this important process.

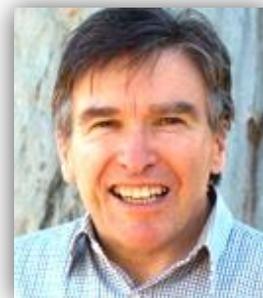
If you weren't aware, the Committee may co-opt up to two additional members from time-to-time. For 2014, Michael Cudmore from La Trobe University and Kerry Martin from the University of the Sunshine Coast have volunteered to assist the Committee. I very much look forward to working with them and what they can contribute to AAIR.

Reminder: applications for the two new Fellowships are open until 23 May. Successful applicants will be notified in June. The recipients will then have 12 months to utilise the Fellowship. For further information, visit the 'Fellowships' webpage (<http://www.aaир.org.au/pages/fellowships>) on the AAIR website.



AAIR Committee at the 2014 Strategic Planning Day

Dave Marr – President
Kathie Rabel – Vice-President
Bruce Guthrie – Secretary (Acting)
David de Bellis – Treasurer (Acting)
Michael Cudmore – Committee member
Jeff Holmes – Committee member
Andrea Jeffreys – Committee member
Don Johnston – Committee member
Kerry Martin – Committee member
Dean Ward – Committee member



2014 AAIR Forum

Turning silver in to gold

Save the Date!

19 to 21 November

with pre Forum workshop/s on Tuesday 18 November

Venue: Intercontinental, 495 Collins St, Melbourne

Some 2013 Forum participants



2014 AAIR Data Warehouse, Business Intelligence and analytics, and Load Management Special Interest Group



Hosted by Queensland University of Technology

18–19 August 2013

This year's AAIR Special Interest Group (SIG) for Data Warehouse, Business

Intelligence and Analytics, and Load Management will be hosted by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and held in Brisbane at the Royal on the Park hotel from Monday 18 to Tuesday 19 August 2014, with welcome drinks held on Sunday evening 17 August.

Date claimers:

Registrations will open on Monday 12 May

The Call for Abstracts will open on Monday 2 June.

For further details or feedback, please contact:

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Higher Education@home

by Emma Farley

1. In early March Labor (also known as *backflips 'r' us*) and the Greens combined forces to [refer the TEQSA reform Bill to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee](#). More on this in mid June, the reporting date for the Senate. An article published in The Scan provides [Lee Dow's perspective on the new Bill](#).
2. In response to the Review of Higher Education Regulation, the Government has established the [TEQSA Advisory Council](#). The Advisory Council has received the thumbs up from [Universities Australia](#).
3. In March, TEQSA released some [summary documents](#) in relation to consultations with the higher education sector in late 2013.
4. The [third Call for Comment](#) from the Higher Education Standards Panel is now out regarding the Proposed Higher Education Standards Framework. A stakeholder information session is proposed for 14 May, more details will be available on the [HE standards website](#) shortly. Thomson Reuters is capitalising on the momentum around the forthcoming G20 meeting in Brisbane this coming November with the release of a new report, [The Research and Innovation Performance of the G20](#), on research output and impact. While the report found that Australia's scientific outputs had increased between 2003 and 2012, Australia steadily declined in patent applications harming our ability to innovate.
5. An indication of the times ahead for higher education? As [The Scan](#) reported, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), "had received 17, 500 applications to register new training organisations, re-register existing ones or permit them to offer new courses". Almost one in five (17%) of new organisation applications were rejected, as were 7.4% of applications from existing organisations.
6. NCVET is due to release a student next month "which shows the expanding university system is affecting the recruitment of apprentices", according to [The Scan](#). The report is focused on young men born between 1980 and 1991, and shows that growing "university participation has not reduced overall apprentice numbers" with cohorts simply coming from people without earlier study or training.
7. [Engaging University Students: International Insights from System-Wide Studies](#) is a new book by Hamish Coates and Alexander McCormick which relies on information gathered in the National Survey of Student Engagement.
8. The [TAFE parliamentary inquiry](#) has recommenced, previously put on hold by the last federal election, into the operation of TAFE. If you are or have studied in a TAFE you can participate in a [short survey](#) regarding your experience.
9. In other TAFE news, The Scan reported dual sector uni's in Victoria "[happy to ditch TAFE label](#)" as a result of new legislation.
10. Heard of [The VET Blog](#)? The VET Development Centre is supporting "the development and maintenance of vocational and educational currency" through the provision of recent and relevant information. A post on 6 May covered the two [VET areas for potential reform according to the recently released National Commission of Audit](#). Specifically, the report suggests clarifying the roles and responsibilities among governments, and a recommendation to consider potential reform in occupational licensing.
11. The Scan published an article about [recommendation 39 of the Commission of Audit report](#). The recommendation encourages the federal government to continue to remove itself from the VET picture with States and Territories to drive funding, programs, and the delivery of a demand-driven system.
12. Want to catch up on the "oldest and most widely read refereed journal dedicated to higher education issues"? Download the February 2014 [Australian Universities' Review](#) online.
13. [Open2Study](#) is reported to have attracted 150,000 students in its first year, but whether those enrolments have or will convert to OUA paying customers is yet to be seen.
14. Westpac announced the [largest single philanthropic donation of \\$100 million](#) for tertiary scholarships. Let's hope this creates a competition of philanthropic enthusiasm!
15. [Keep It Clever](#) is the catchy and cute campaign launched by [Universities Australia](#) at the start of April. Let's hope the Coalition keeps the budget clever with the amount of funding we'll be left with.
16. And for our quality assurance spectators and participants, I particularly liked this comment from [Jan Cameron at LH Martin Institute](#):
"an approach to external quality assurance focused on quality enhancement (rather than compliance) recognises that mature institutions are already on a path of continuous improvement, and that change will occur in an environment of competing priorities for attention and resources."
17. Do you want more depth and breadth in your institutional research? Triangulation may be just the trick, and according to the [Higher Education Institutional Research Network](#) recent opinion piece, *Triangulation in Institutional Qualitative Data Analysis: clarity from viewing through multiple lenses?*. "We would argue that the primary aim of triangulation is not necessarily as being a mechanism of adding validity to research design and outputs or to promote rigor in qualitative institutional research (although this also could be the case), but as a means of better understanding the data in order to make better informed decisions."
18. And for your 'big data' addiction, and another take on the topic in a [guest post by Alistair Cross](#), author of *Lean Analytics*, "we've reached an economic tipping point at which analysis becomes cheaper and easier than just throwing money at a problem". You may also want



- to download O'Reilly's [Big Data Now: 2013 Edition](#) covers all the top posts relating to big data. The reported on the first wave of grants being awarded for study abroad and professional internships as part of the New Columbo plan. The New Columbo plan will release further grants that support "elite scholarships and broader mobility grants" shortly.
19. And for all the enthusiasm around big data, there are those [eagerly waiting for the hype to die](#).
 20. [Professor Fred Hilmer, VC at University of NSW, made public his announcement to retire at the end of 2014](#), which kicked started false rumours that Professor Glyn Davis was also about to announce.
 21. Find out the [Top 10 IT issues facing higher education institutions](#) according to EDUCAUSE.
 22. The [CSIRO](#) is potentially looking at another lot of funding going missing... Are these cuts going to cause [long term damage](#)?
 23. The Go8 released a backgrounder, [Future demand for higher education in Australia](#), concluding "demand for higher education places are likely to experience significant growth, if only due to demographic change" and recommending urgent consideration on how "best to meet the needs of these additional students, ... how best to match higher education training to the needs of the Australian workforce [and] ... ensuring a pipeline of academic staff is ready and prepared to fill the expected gaps in the workforce as the current wave of senior academics begin to retire".
 24. An article by Tom Cochrane in The Conversation, [to lecture or not to lecture: is technology reinventing the campus](#), provided some useful thoughts. What was refreshing (no, not the commentators) was the point that on-campus learning being replaced has been a concern for over 20 years. Yes, online is big, but will it mean dooms day for the campus, unlikely. One thing is sure, online and technology is encouraging (carrot or stick) the sector to respond.
 25. *The contribution of education to economic growth in Australia, 1997-2009*, by [Tom Karmel](#), was published mid March. The key messages include findings that increasing education levels improved productivity by 0.14% per annum, and as education levels increase so do the number of hours worked (particularly for women with degrees and postgraduate qualifications). [The Australian](#) wished to create some sensation from the research by pointing out that the proportion had declined in comparison to the 1970s and the 1980s "when... education delivered a boost of 0.4 per cent a year", however quickly watered this down with a quote from Dr Karmel, "The education game is not finished yet."
 26. In a rather lengthy diatribe, Arthur O'Neill, takes some heavy artillery and fires them at [the executive university](#). I hope I see an end to the "them and us" focus for rage in my lifetime, but I'm not confident! This article is just one of so many articles or comments from different camps that illustrate the tensions existing within institutions, most often as a result of external forces.
 27. Scandal has been rife regarding the provision of housing to international students that was developed under a [social housing scheme](#) by the previous Labor government. The Australian seemed to be having a field day with the story, and was suitably outraged when it [could not obtain comment from linked Universities](#). Unsurprisingly, the Social Services Minister, Kevin Andrews, then signaled an [intention to implement restrictions](#). Meanwhile, students caught in the brawl are "[mortified](#)". [Queensland is the only state to prevent foreign citizens becoming NRAS tenants](#), and further damaging Labor support some are now claiming that [the federal government was warned about the situation](#).
 28. Monash will be proudly publicising its status as the first organisation in the world to go live with a [new brand top level domain](#) (TLD). Participate in their celebration at [about.monash!](#)
 29. [IBISWorld](#) released some market research in Australian online education in February. If only I had a spare \$1000 to purchase the report. [The Australian](#) opened their wallet, and produced an item about the drain online education has for our marketing budgets.
 30. The Higher Education Supplement in The Australian, joined many of us attrition data crunchers and produced an [intriguing article](#) and [supplementary table](#). As they say, the devil is in the detail, it is a pity there wasn't any detail in this article.
 31. Some positive results were found in the NCVER publication, [Educational outcomes: the impact of aspirations and the role of student background characteristics](#). Educational aspirations were found to have a "substantial" effect on outcomes, and interventions to lift aspirations should have a similar impact for all young people, including those most at risk of poor educational outcomes.
 32. Queensland universities eagerly await the outcome of the [review on the OP](#) (Overall Position).
 33. The Swisse/La Trobe deal certainly seemed to cause a stir close to home, with The Australian, [The Scan](#) and the ABC all involved.
 34. In their February newsletter, LH Martin Institute published an article (with reference to prior research) by [Gunn and Minstrom](#) highlighting some of the advantages the airline industry has in alliances and suggesting University's could make use of such an approach. Not too long after that at the Universities Australia conference, UK Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts suggested [Australian and UK universities should partner to leverage respective strengths](#) in emerging nations like Indonesia.
 35. The ABC could follow in the BBCs footsteps by making its [content available for educational purposes](#).
 36. \$12 billion+... the [cost to government](#) for the support of domestic higher education students in 2014

Predicting the Australian federal government

by Emma Farley

With a tsunami of Australian education news on the Review of the Demand Driven System, the Commission of Audit, and the pending Budget it seemed my topic was screaming to me for this edition.

At some point in this newsletter I suggested “partner” is the new black in higher education, but on second thoughts it may just be “change”!

Review of the Demand Driven System

The Coalition released the Kemp-Norton [Review of the Demand Driven System](#) in mid April, and after reading it many said the writing was on the wall.

The review recommends expanding the system to private providers, reviewing postgraduate funding, removing Low SES and attainment targets, and makes suggestions on approaches that reduce the long-term costs of education to government.

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) statement called the review “a thoughtful exploration” and urged the government to endorse its major conclusions, while [Universities Australia](#) were [concerned](#) and quickly received a [reaction from Norton](#). Support was found largely across the sector, including the [Regional Universities Network](#).

Some [good contributions](#), supportive [commentary](#) and [concern on the recommendations](#) can be found in [The Conversation](#), [The Australian](#), [LH Martin Institute](#), and [The Scan](#). The Centre for the Study of Higher Education held a [discussion](#) with Andrew Norton on the review which can be accessed on the CSHE website.

Funding

I was impressed with an article written in [The Conversation](#) on if Australia should (follow Germany and) have free higher education. Firstly, the article shows OECD data comparing what the public versus the private purse pays, as well as the proportion of students receiving fee support and the proportion of the population with a higher education qualification. The second reason, the extremely healthy commentary provided in response to the article... An interesting topic for discussion, but possibly a fanciful one considering it now [appears as if fee deregulation will happen](#).

[Universities Australia](#) have commissioned [Philips KPA to write another discussion paper on future funding options](#).

Funding concern may be the status quo globally with [The Chronicle](#) exploring how higher education funding is moving from a public debt to a private one. An interesting page of graphs in [The Chronicle](#) shows [funding arrangements per US State from 1987 to 2012](#). Likewise, University World News published an article by Mitch Hartman, which discusses how the [University of the West Indies](#) (UWI) has been focused on income diversity and institution cost-efficiencies.

Student debt

The Grattan Institute report, [Doubtful debt: the rising cost of student loans](#) showed the “Commonwealth government could save \$800 million per year by 2017 if it recovered outstanding student loans from deceased estates and people living overseas”.

[Regional Universities Network](#) announced their support for the demand driven system and the uncapping of tuition fees in early March. “Other initiatives worth exploring further, according to Lee, are the [recovery of HECS-debt from Australians living overseas and estates of the deceased, and the securitization of the HECS debt](#)”, subject to the cost and ease of implementation. Some agree that claw backs from [Deceased estates and overseas expats](#) are a better option than slugging lower income earners.

According to Vicki Thomson, of the Australian Technology Network, [securitisation is Australia's education-financial buzzword](#).

A useful piece by Scott Bowman, VC at CQU, on [selling the student debt](#), can be found in [The Conversation](#).

Mr. Pyne has been repeating the line that those with a higher education qualification (bachelor level) earn up to 75% more than those without. While earning capacity is higher, it turns out Mr. Pyne is using numbers from a study completed way back in 2002.... Hmm. The Australian published a good article on [graduate's return of investment](#).

The [National Commission of Audit](#) last week said students should be footing more of the bill for their education, in a series of recommendations that would increase fees, charge real interest on student loans and reduce the income repayment threshold to the minimum wage at \$32,354 a year (unfair for drop outs). But the prospects of paying back higher costs are making students, who are already doing it tough, question whether it is worth continuing. But for all of its recommendations and intentions, is the only thing the CoA likely to do is [bring down the government](#)?

[Universities Australia remains guarded](#) on the Commission of Audit until further details are available.

And it appears that some students are watching with alarm, if [the student protest that brought television show Q and A to a halt](#) is anything to go by. Lots of commentary of the success of that protest can be found on the usual sites if you are keen. As is the nature of higher education, it is [not just student's who are concerned](#).

Postgraduate funding

[Postgraduate funding](#) got a run in the media over the allocation of government supported postgraduate places.

In a curious article in [The Conversation](#), Professor Glyn Davis shares with us a political pearl “*however passionately those in higher education feel about the sector, the issue does not rate in polling about public concerns. Australians worry about the health system and school education, about jobs, transport and the cost of living. They are not inclined to pay more taxes*”.

Budget

Hot off the presses is the Grattan Institute [Budget Pressures on Australian governments 2014 report](#). What is interesting is the reports claim that the “massive infrastructure gap” Prime Minister Abbott is committing to fix has actually been part of the reason for growing state and territory budget holes, that and our apparent growing enthusiasm for attending a doctor.

I tend to agree with John Daley, Grattan Institute CEO and co-author of the report, who is on the record in [The Australian Financial Review](#) saying “even if it [infrastructure] did [lift productivity], could

we afford it?". Not only is the report worthy of a read, the [supporting analysis](#) paints a useful picture, with Commonwealth recurrent expenditure by policy analysis showing Education and Research at 13%. It's a needle in a haystack type game to spot the proportion of state spending on Higher Education and Research. 3% of total recurrent expenditure (excluding transfer to states) by the Commonwealth in 2013-14 is assigned to Higher Education, and 0.5% for Skills.

The proposed '[no dole before 25, earn or learn](#)' welfare reform measure will have an impact on the various education systems, we will just have to wait and see what exactly it is.

Research and innovation

And sadly (or luckily), [Research and innovation](#) has been taken up the least media space in the [Commission of Audit](#), though once the government shares what it intends to do, that may change... Watch this space!

Heartbleed

Well we've all heard of it by now but if you want to know more try this YouTube clip. Suddenly, password managers (like [LastPass](#) and [1Password](#)) are seeing a spike in registrations!

POSITIONS VACANT



Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research? Try our [Opportunities](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession

IT and online learning

Find out the [Top 10 IT issues facing higher education institutions](#) according to EDUCAUSE.

Another hot topic in the online sphere is who owns an online course or MOOC. [Inside Higher Ed](#) uncovers MITs (among others) approach to "stewardship" when a professor creates a MOOC and then decides to leave the institution.

[EDUCAUSE review online](#) posted a viewpoint piece from Eric Denna, CIO of a US University and the UTAH System of Higher Education, which attempts to convert business model "speak" into higher education "speak" to assuage those who struggle with the notion of higher education being a business model. Not sure it goes the whole way, but the attempt is what matters.

[Enterprise analytics and the CIO](#) is a resource published by EDUCAUSE, and forms part of a [Spotlight on Analytics](#) series.

According to a [tweet](#) from GlobalChronicle, Coursera announced [former Yale president as its CEO](#) in March.

Looking for some training and development?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

Some light relief!

Were you a part of Character Day on 20 March? Completely missed your radar? You can find out what it was all about through [The Science of Character 8-minute film](#). The basic premise, you can develop your character to create a "more meaningful, successful and happy life". It reminds me of the professionally focused, [Strengths Finder](#), work by Tom Rath, previously an employee and now a consultant of the infamous Gallup, Inc. Check out the [periodic table of character strengths](#), decide what is important to you and apply yourself to embodying those traits! Simple, right?

Big Data/Analytics funnies



Higher Education Abroad

by Emma Farley

1. For a sobering and shocking read, take a look at *Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack's*, [Education Under Attack 2014](#). 28 of the 30 countries reported attacks on higher education, and 17 of those 30 university and college buildings damaged or destroyed. While Australasia doesn't feature in the report, some close neighbours do. No matter how close or far away from our shores, "[institutional autonomy and the security of higher education communities](#)" is a must. [University World News](#) (UWN) covers more information on actions being implemented to tackle these issues.
2. [UWN](#) also published a story in Egypt, which reports that more than 1,300 students have been detained by Egypt's military-backed government.
3. A kiwi focus on the [international rankings](#), and how funding ultimately assists or detracts from a University's ability to achieve. [Report...](#)
4. [Success for Pasifika in tertiary education](#) is a report identifying "factors repeatedly evidenced as contributing positively to improved outcomes for Pacific learners, and reflects the findings of other research across the sector".
5. [Vietnam is set to slash the number of undergraduate programs](#) at 71 universities and colleges in a move to increase quality by imposing new rules around the number of under-qualified academics teaching.
6. [Quality is also on the agenda in Europe's E4 Group](#) of leading higher education associations who have revised guidelines and standards in a bid to clarify the learning and teaching process.
7. And to complicate matters further, the [Council for Higher Education Accreditation's International Quality Group](#) (CIQG) debated the need for an international set of quality standards. I think the group would need some Swiss energy boosting vitamins before tackling that beast.
8. To grab attention, US news provider [Bloomsberg Businessweek](#) has published an article suggesting the purpose of the merge between twenty colleges and research institutes in France is to "chase Harvard" in world rankings! Insert chortle here. The article goes on to outline the affect international rankings have had on higher education, and acknowledges that there is more than one reason for the French merger.

9. [The Chronicle](#) published an interesting article discussing the problems associated with maintaining large campuses, and how many in the US are now looking at ways to reduce their physical footprint. Watch this space for Australia's response to these issues shortly... Sayonara Sandstone?
10. The [Financial Times](#) published analysis by [FireEye](#), that the education sector topped the [most-attacked list in 2013](#) by cyber criminals. And for a case in point you can refer to [The Chronicle](#), which reported that the University of Maryland has had approximately 310,000 staff and student records stolen.
11. With some impressive scandals in dissertations and degrees, [University World News](#) recently reported the Russian government's move to impose new rules on dissertation councils.
12. The new SAT, America's college-entrance exam, is here and has been garnering mixed reviews. You can read about those reactions in [The Chronicle](#).
13. [The Chronicle](#) reported the first lawsuit filed in the US by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau against ITT Educational Services Inc., the for-profit college chain, "while many students got poorer the investigators and shareholders got richer". The article reports that the scrutiny in to ITT is "wide-ranging, looking at everything from aggressive recruitment to the misrepresentation of graduation and job placement rates". The article outlines, that while ITT "marketed itself as improving consumers' lives, it was really just improving its bottom line".
14. [The Chronicle](#) published a refreshing opinion piece from a retired college president, suggesting media focus on the cost of student-loan debt was ill placed, and comparing student-loan debt to car debt.
15. The [World Beyond 2015](#) is a report prepared by the Association of Commonwealth Universities [to raise awareness of why and how higher education should respond to global challenges](#).
16. Most probably you've heard of the ways in which Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Pearson and Cengage have worked to increase the



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scope of their business, but have you heard of [Flat World Education](#)? Flat World Education, initially a publisher of print-on-demand-textbooks, announced a partnership with Brandman University to create a new online bachelor's degree in business administration. What's different about Flat World Education? "It sells continuity"... "keeping things simple, with a single login and consistent design features", according to an article in [The Chronicle](#).

17. The upper echelon continue to join forces with the [Russell Group](#), the [U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities](#) (U15) and the [Association of East Asian Research Universities](#) (AEARU) signing the [Hefei Statement](#), which outlines characteristics of contemporary research universities. The Russell Group and AEARU join the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Consortium of China 9 Research Universities (C9), the Group of 8 (Go8), and the League of European Research Universities (LERU).
18. If you research student pathways, you may wish to take a look at [Changing Student Pathways](#), a collection of news articles and essays on the way to US College.
19. [University World News](#) reports that China is expecting hot competition in graduate jobs this year with a "record 7.27 million local students" graduating in June and large numbers of students returning from overseas studies. The number of local students vying for employing in 2014 is nearly 280,000 higher than in 2013, which saw unemployment rates as high as 17.6% for new graduates.

20. [University World News](#) reported Australia (along with the UK) slipping in the THE rankings for 2014, with analysis focused on the top 100. With only one University movement out of the top 100, it isn't cause for headless chooks just yet. You can download the [Academic Reputation Survey Methodology](#) online.
21. We often get caught up discussing the university rankings, and less often focus on system rankings, like [U21](#). Benoit Millot writes a useful article in University World News on both [university and system rankings](#).
22. An article in [The New Yorker](#) summed up a recent debate, "More Clicks, Fewer Bricks: The Lecture Hall is obsolete", held by [Intelligence Squared US](#).
23. Partner is the new black, according to University World News article, [the university as a partner, not a competitor](#).
24. [Free education has been promised to students in Rwanda](#) by edX and Facebook, among other companies, in a bid to "improving global access to high-quality education". The clincher, the student must remain enrolled for one year.
25. Nearly 70 percent of US bachelor degree students take out loans, according to research undertaken by Ben Miller and published in the [Student Debt Review](#). The proportion of students obtaining loans to study is not the only thing on the rise with the number of students graduating with debt growing significantly. This report present compelling findings, and the information and graphics are user friendly.
26. After some interesting and useful world population facts and projections? Find it in the [2013 World Population Data Sheet](#).

And after all that, I'm exhausted!

Emma

AAIR eNewsletter Editor

