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REACTION, INITIATION, AND HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Sears, Lou Ann (2007) *REACTION, INITIATION, AND PROMISE: A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION*. Doctoral Dissertation, University of Pittsburgh. (Unpublished)

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to determine the nature of the historical role played by the International Reading Association (IRA) from 1900 to 2006. The methodology used in this qualitative study was grounded theory. Data was located, examined, coded, and recoded until themes, patterns, and categories emerged that emerged from an analysis of historical events related to IRA, the United States' reading instruction. The study complements an earlier study of the history of reading instruction by Hartman and Lou Ann Sears in which oral histories were conducted with IRA members in the present, and document analyses were conducted of materials archived at the University of Pittsburgh. The research questions guided this study. In what ways has the International Reading Association been affected that have affected its goals and members? In what ways has IRA been an initiator of change? What were prevalent in United States' history, educational history, and reading-instruction? How have been reflected in the way IRA promoted sound literacy practices? Three c

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the themes that emerged from the study. First, IRA intentionally reacted to initiated connections among and beyond its membership in the way that it reacted to and been affected by themes that emerged from historical events in United States' reading instruction.

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