

## Innovation: The changing form of books

### In this activity sheet students will:

- view in close detail the experimental books *Medallion*, *The Order of Things* and *Etisoppo*, as well as zine covers online
- investigate some experimental book forms that challenge our ordinary understanding of books
- ask questions about the nature of contemporary reading and writing in a multicultural society
- explore the do-it-yourself world of zines and then make a class zine
- consider contemporary book technologies and hypothesise on future trends, as well as taking environmental concerns into account.

### Answers to Question time 1

1. He has folded, cut, sewn and glued other material onto the book.
- 2 & 3. Student's personal answer.

### Answers to Question time 2

1. Dictionary, encyclopedia, internet websites, telephone book.
2. Harder to read; no beginning, middle or end; hard to print and more time-consuming to construct.

### Answers to Activity 5 – Get interactive!

1. Both are not read from beginning to end.
2. 'Opposite' backwards
3. To explore relationships between different languages including languages that go in different directions. It is also a play on words, Australia as the 'opposite' country because it is 'down under'.
4. Many countries speak English and it is a growing language, but other languages will always continue to exist.
5. Hebrew, Arabic – right to left, horizontal  
Chinese / Japanese – right to left, vertical

### Answers to Activity 6 - Which way do I read?

Arabic	Right to left horizontal
Chinese	Right to left, vertical (also other variations)
Turkish	Left to right, horizontal
Ancient Egyptian	(Variable)
Mongolian	Left to right, vertical
Rongo Rongo	Boustrophedon
Somali	Left to right, horizontal
Hebrew	Right to left, horizontal

### Answers to Question time 4

1. Discussion points: the 'paperless office'; people still print emails; they don't need electricity to produce something on paper.
2. Discussion points: technology needs different resources - for example metals, plastic - and these have environmental implications.
3. Digital ink/paper.
4. Too much information can sometimes make it difficult to find quality information on the internet, and the number of websites and links grows every day. Ask students how they would find quality information.

**Further reading**

To find out more about the information you can access online at the State Library of Victoria, visit:  
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/catalogues/index.html>

**Sources consulted**

Etisoppo website  
<http://www.etisoppo.com/>

International Society of altered books website  
<http://www.alteredbookartists.com>

Princeton online website  
<http://www.princetonol.com/grOUps/iad/lessons/middle/Judi-books.htm>