

Form of dyslexia for numbers researched

People who have trouble understanding mathematics may have a numeric form of dyslexia — dyscalculia.

Auckland University researchers Anna Wilson and Karen Waldie will study why some people suffer from dyscalculia, a learning disability which makes it difficult for the brain to process and understand numbers and simple mathematics.

The research will look at the relationship between dyscalculia and dyslexia, in which the brain is slow to read words.

Dyscalculia is just as com-

mon as dyslexia, 6 per cent of the population, but research tends to focus on dyslexia, Wilson said.

Half of the people with dyscalculia also have dyslexia.

Wilson will try to identify the cognitive and neurological symptoms of dyscalculia.

“Our research will help understand the causes of dyscalculia, ways to diagnose individuals and the best way to intervene and treat it.”

The study will include adults aged 18 to 35 in the Auckland region.

—NZPA