

## SOURCES IN COLLEGE STUDENT-HOUSING LITERATURE

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## INTRODUCTION

Student housing has provided an important student service for American higher education since colonial times. Over the years, the housing field has emerged as one of the leading professional specialties among the various student-service areas and has developed a substantial body of literature. Molinari (1976), as the president-elect of ACUHO, emphasized "the need for college housing and food service personnel to have information about students, housing environments, the trends of society and higher education, and the impact and cost-effectiveness of programs." As professionals, housing practitioners, researchers, and academicians should know how the literature about housing has evolved and where to find the information needed to function professionally, and they should keep informed of advances in other student-service areas in order to maintain a broad perspective and avoid provincial thinking. This study examines the journal literature in housing — how it evolved, how it exists today — and considers the potential of the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* as an important source of the professional literature.

## METHOD

Packwood's recently published book *College Student Personnel Services* (1977), which includes a review of the literature on student housing among the various student services surveyed, offers an opportunity to examine the sources of housing literature. Since Packwood's book is the latest in a series of at least four books (Wrenn, 1951; Mueller, 1961; Fitzgerald, Johnson, and Norris, 1970; and Packwood, 1977) published in the student-services field over the last thirty years that include student housing among the specialties covered, it is possible to examine trends in housing literature over

three decades. In this study of the literature, several relevant journals in the field and the citations found in DeCoster and Mable (1974) were also examined. The sources of recent literature in the field of financial aid were also studied to provide a comparison of trends in a comparable student-service specialty.

## RESULTS

The sources of literature in the five different volumes examined are shown in Table 1. The sources available to Wrenn and Mueller were much fewer than those available today, although direct comparisons cannot be made as Wrenn's and Mueller's books included chapters about student housing in which no attempt was made to cite all of the references available. The journal articles which were cited tended to be found in the *Journal of the National Association of Women Deans and Counselors* (NAWDAC), the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, the *Educational Record*, and *School and Society*, as other student-services journals had not yet begun publication. In their 1970 volume, Fitzgerald, Johnson, and Norris cited 105 articles in their bibliography. Of these, 37 (35.2%) came from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 19 (18.1%) from the NAWDAC Journal, 15 (14.3%) from *College and University Business*, and 8 (7.6%) from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*.

Seventy-nine articles were cited in the housing chapter in the Packwood book. Of these, 40 (50.6%) were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 14 (17.7%) from the *National Association of Student Personnel Administrators* (NASPA) *Journal*, 7 (8.9%) from the NAWDAC Journal, and 6 (7.6%) from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*. During recent years, it is apparent that the *Journal of College Student Personnel* has been the primary source of the literature dealing with housing as a student

service. During the years of that journal's existence that were covered in the Fitzgerald book (1959-1968), 41 articles were published dealing with housing; these constituted 10.3% of the 398 articles published in the journal during the decade. During the years covered by the more recent Packwood book (1965-1974), the *Journal of College Student Personnel* published 68 articles concerned with housing, which represented 9.9% of the total articles published during that period.

The most frequently cited reference book or monograph in Packwood (1977) was the DeCoster and Mable monograph (1974). In this monograph there were 104 citations, of which 27 (26%) were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 17 (16%) from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, 9 (9%) from the *NASPA Journal*, and 5 (5%) from the *NAWDAC Journal*. In all of the books examined, the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* was cited only once (DeCoster and Mable, 1974). Although the student housing literature was located basically in books, monographs, and government reports in the 1940s and 1950s, it has appeared predominantly in generalist journals, such as the *JCSP*, *NAWDAC*

*Journal*, and *NASPA Journal*, in the 1970s, after the establishment of such specialist journals for several student services.

The development of literature in the housing field was compared with that of financial aid as both fields showed a similar evolution through the 1960s. In Table 2, the number of citations of journal articles on housing and on financial aid in the Fitzgerald book (1970) and the Packwood book (1977) are compared. Of the financial aid citations in the Fitzgerald book, 19% were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, and substantial numbers were from a variety of journals. By the time the literature on financial aid was reviewed in the Packwood book, the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* had been established (1971), and 41% of the citations were from that journal. At the same time, the proportions found in other journals (with the exception of a proportion of articles found in the *Journal of College Student Personnel*) had dropped substantially. As much of the financial aid literature had appeared in a variety of sources previously, it is apparent that the establishment of the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* has fulfilled a very real need in that specialty field.

TABLE 1  
SOURCES OF STUDENT-HOUSING JOURNAL ARTICLES  
CITED BY VARIOUS AUTHORS

<u>Source</u>	<u>Wrenn 1951</u>	<u>Mueller 1961</u>	<u>Fitzgerald 1970</u>	<u>Packwood 1977</u>	<u>DeCoster and Mable 1974</u>
<i>J. Coll. Univ. Stud. Hous.</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>J. Coll. Stud. Pers.</i>	0	0	37	40	27
<i>NASPA J.</i>	0	0	2	14	9
<i>J. NAWDAC</i>	2	1	19	7	5
<i>Pers. &amp; Guid. J.</i>	0	2	8	6	17
<i>Coll. &amp; Univ. Bus.</i>	0	0	15	1	0
<i>Educational Record</i>	1	1	3	1	2
<i>Ed. &amp; Psy. Meas.</i>	2	0	0	0	0
<i>School &amp; Society</i>	3	0	1	0	0
<i>Amer. School &amp; Univ.</i>	0	0	5	6	0
Other Journals	0	0	15 articles/ 13 journals	4	53 articles/ 33 journals
Total Cited	8	4	103	79	94

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The substantial increase in housing literature during the 1960s and 1970s suggests that housing has developed its own base of professional literature, with a strong grounding in evaluation and research. The literature has been predominantly published in the generalist journals, with the majority of it in the *Journal of College Student Personnel*.

The trend for the 1970s is for each student-service area to develop its own specialized journal, and such journals have become the leading references for their fields. The field of student housing appears to be following this trend, and the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* is the most likely vehicle for the movement.

The fact that the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* was cited only once in the materials reviewed could be due to a combination of factors. It was not in existence when the Wrenn, Mueller, and Fitzgerald books were published, and its low citation rate in the DeCoster and Mable monograph and Packwood book may have been due to lack of access to the Journal,

particularly in institutional libraries; the relative newness of the Journal; the relatively few research articles written; and the small number of articles which had appeared at the time the books were being written. In addition, there seem to be three different interest groups in the housing field: a business-oriented group, which would probably make use of *College and University Business*; a practitioner-oriented group, which would probably use the *Journal of College and University Student Housing*; and a research-oriented group, which would tend to use the *Journal of College Student Personnel*. This diversity of interests may be splitting up the number of manuscripts potentially available to the *Journal of College and University Student Housing*, thus lowering the possibility for articles to be cited from this Journal.

The importance of student housing and the large number of full-time personnel in the housing field suggest a need for the *Journal of College and University Student Housing*. It has the potential to become the leading reference for the housing literature, particularly as a vehicle for manuscripts on programming, administration, research, and

TABLE 2

### COMPARISON OF SOURCES OF HOUSING AND FINANCIAL AID ARTICLES

Source	Fitzgerald, 1970		Packwood, 1977	
	Financial Aid	Housing	Financial Aid	Housing
<i>J. Stud. Fin. Aid</i>	0	0	46	0
<i>J. Coll. Univ. Stud. Hous.</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>J. Coll. Stud. Pers.</i>	9	37	25	40
<i>NASPA J.</i>	3	2	4	14
<i>J. NAWDAC</i>	1	19	1	7
<i>Pers. &amp; Guid. J.</i>	6	8	4	6
<i>Coll. &amp; Univ. Bus.</i>	5	15	2	1
<i>Coll. &amp; Univ.</i>	5	0	6	0
<i>Collegé Board Rev.</i>	5	0	9	0
<i>Harvard Educ. Rev.</i>	5	0	0	0
Other Journals	10	24	24	11
Total Cited	49	105	121	79

professional development. Whether the Journal lives up to its potential will depend upon the competence of its editorial staff, the support it receives from its professional association (ACUHO), and the support it receives from readers and contributors in housing positions on college and university campuses.

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