The Health Services Research Core Library Project
Module One
Order No. 467-MZ-901214

Submitted to
The National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology
National Library of Medicine

by
Naomi R. Adelman, M.L.S.

for
The Association for Health Services Research

July 17, 2000
Revised September 20, 2000
The purpose of this project is to create a list of selected books, journals, and websites that will serve as the basis of a core health policy collection or library. The idea for such a list comes from the medical community, which has long been fortunate to have the “Brandon/Hill Selected List of Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library” and “A Library for Internists: Recommendations from the American College of Physicians” to use as collection development tools for their personal and professional libraries. The health policy community has no equivalent resource. Therefore, they should benefit from a similar tool that will provide them with a professionally evaluated body of resources to be used to enhance their libraries, both personal and professional, as well as their research practices.

Scope of Coverage

Health policy is an incredibly broad field that encompasses many disciplines. The members of the Association for Health Services Research Technical Advisory Group, which convened on December 8, 1999 for the purpose of soliciting expert opinions and advice about the development of a core library collection for health policy (see Appendix A for a summary of the meeting), included the following as the disciplines that inform health policy:

- Economics
- Public Health
- Law
- Legislation
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Other Health Care Professions
- Ethics
- Epidemiology
- Demography
- Informatics
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Health Education
- Public Administration
- Health Services Research
- Methodology
- Environmental Health
- Mass Communication
- Biostatistics
- Business/Management
- History

A review of the tables of contents of more than 50 health policy textbooks, journals, and reports, as well as the reading lists of approximately 35 graduate health policy course syllabi, generated the following additional disciplines:

- Government and Politics
- Mental Health (which could be included with Psychology)
- Operations Research
- Planning
- Rural Health

Identifying a library collection that would include the important works from all of the above disciplines was beyond the scope of this project. Therefore, it was decided to limit this core
library list to resources in general health policy, health economics, health services research, and public health. No specialty (for example, nursing, pediatrics, gerontology, rural health, etc.) titles would be included.

**Methodology**

**Journals** (see also Appendix B)  
The AHSR TAG members sorted a preliminary list of health policy journal titles that had been created by the author and her associate, Katherine Slack, M.L.S. The titles were then categorized as to whether they had received more than 10 votes, 6 to 10 votes, 1 to 5 votes, or no votes. In addition, the TAG members suggested a number of titles that were not on the initial list. The titles were then sorted into two categories: most crucial and under consideration. The AHSR membership was asked their opinions of these titles and rankings: A journal (*The Western Journal of Medicine*) that is not a health policy title was added to that list in order to see if the membership was really thinking about the value of the titles or just agreeing with us. A majority questioned the inclusion of the *Western Journal of Medicine* in a core health policy list! They also commented on many of the titles. Their responses were sorted by frequency.

The HealthSTAR database was searched for citations on health policy as a major subject heading. The more than 10,000 resulting citations were imported into an EndNote library and then sorted by journal title frequency.

The Sociological Abstracts and EconLit databases also were searched by health policy or medical policy and the results sorted by journal frequency.

The reading lists from more than 35 graduate health policy classes offered at Boston University, Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Arizona, University of Colorado, University of Connecticut, University of Iowa, University of Rochester, University of Wisconsin and University of Wisconsin, as well as the bibliography from the classic health policy textbook, *Health Politics and Policy* (3rd ed.), by Theodor J. Litman and Leonard S. Robins were also examined and sorted by citation frequency.

Finally, the Institute for Scientific Research’s Journal Citation Ranking Social Sciences Edition (www.isinet.com) for health policy was examined.

The 20 titles that were ranked most highly by at least three of the above sources were chosen for the core library collection are presented in the table on the following page:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Title</th>
<th>ISI Rank</th>
<th>Textbook &amp; Syllabi Rank</th>
<th>HealthSTAR Rank</th>
<th>AHSR Evaluation</th>
<th>Soc. Abst. Top Ten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Journal of Public Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Affairs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Financing Review</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Management Review</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Policy</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Policy and Planning</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSR Health Services Research</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inquiry</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Health Services</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMA</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Health Economics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Public Health Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Care</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Care Research and Review</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Milbank Quarterly</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New England Journal of Medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science and Medicine</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online Notification Services (see also Appendix C)
The internet was searched for sites that provide notification of current health policy issues either by e-mail or independent searching. Opinions of these sites were obtained from a number of health policy researchers. Five sites were chosen for their currency, completeness and relevance:

- American Health Line
- Electronic Policy Network (Idea Central: Health Policy)
- Health Policy Tracking Service
- Medscape (Medscape eMed journals)
- Policy.com (Issues Library: Health)

Organizations (see also Appendix D and E)
The following 25 non-government health policy organizations and 20 government health policy related agencies were identified by analyzing the links sections of more than 75 relevant websites. Particularly useful were the links provided by the Duke University Center for Health Policy, Law and Management’s Duke Health Policy Cyberexchange and the National Library of Medicine’s National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology websites. All the organizational links were evaluated on accuracy, original content, timeliness and practicality for the health policy professional. In addition, the author’s personal experience with these organizations and sites was taken into consideration.

Non-government
- AARP
- Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy
- American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
- American Public Health Association
- The Brookings Institution
- Center for Studying Health System Change
- The Commonwealth Fund
- Employee Benefit Research Institute
- FamiliesUSA
- Grantmakers In Health
- The Heritage Foundation
- Institute of Medicine
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
- The Milbank Memorial Fund
- National Committee for Quality Assurance
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Governors’ Association
- National Health Policy Forum
- Rand
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Society for Medical Decision Making
- The Urban Institute
- World Health Organization
Books
Since health policy is so dependent upon current information, the author decided to include very few books in the core collection. Although this is a major departure from traditional core library development, it probably will not be so unconventional in the future as we become more dependent upon the internet. The following books were chosen because they are either classics in the field, very current (or forthcoming) books by experts in the field, or part of well-regarded series:


Publishers and Distributors (see also Appendix F)
The following are publishers and distributors of health policy books that should be consulted on a regular basis in order to maintain an up-to-date core library:

Amazon.com
Brookings Institution Press
Delmar Publishers
Health Administration Press
National Academy Press
Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research
Urban Institute Press

The complete core library for health policy can be found on the next pages.
The Health Policy Core Library

**Journals**

American Journal of Public Health
http://www.apha.org/journal/journal.htm

Health Affairs
http://www.projhope.org/HA/

Health Care Financing Review
http://www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/hcfrdesc.htm

Health Care Management Review
http://www.aspenpub.com/pgHCMR.html

Health Economics
http://www.interscience.wiley.com/jpages/1057-9230/

Health Policy
http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/5/0/5/6/2/505962.pub.htm

Health Policy and Planning
http://heapol.oupjournals.org

HSR Health Services Research
http://www.hsr.org

Inquiry
http://www.inquiryjournal.org

International Journal of Health Services
http://www.baywood.com/site/new2/viewbook.cfm?id=100126&c=10105372

JAMA
http://jama.ama-assn.org

The Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement
http://ww.jcaho.org/lwapps/online/journal.htm

Journal of Health Economics
http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/5/0/5/6/0/505560.pub.htm

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law
http://www.jhppl.org/home_page.htm

Journal of Public Health Policy
http://www.members.aol.com/jphpterris/jphp.htm
Medical Care  
http://www.medicalcare.org/homeTop.htm

Medical Care Research and Review  
http://www.sagepub.com/shopping/journal.asp?id=4683

The Milbank Quarterly  
http://www.milbank.org/quarterly.html

The New England Journal of Medicine  
http://www.nejm.org/content/index/asp

Social Science and Medicine  

Online Notification Services

American Health Line  
http://www.americanheathline.com

Electronic Policy Network  
http://www.epn.org
(Idea Central: Health Policy)

Health Policy Tracking Service  
http://www.hpts.org

Medscape  
http://www.medscape.com
(Medscape eMed journals)

Policy.com  
http://www.policy.com
(Issues Library: Health)

Organizations (non-government)

AARP  
http://research.aarp.org/health/index.html

Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy  
http://www.ahsrhp.org

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research  
http://www.aei.org

American Public Health Association  
http://www.apha.org
The Brookings Institution
http://www.brookings.org

Center for Studying Health System Change
http://www.hschange.com

The Commonwealth Fund
http://www.commonwealthfund.org

Employee Benefit Research Institute
http://www.ebri.org

FamiliesUSA
http://www.familiesusa.org

Grantmakers In Health
http://www.gih.org

The Heritage Foundation
http://www.heritage.org

Institute of Medicine
http://www4.nas.edu/iom/iomhome.nsf

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
http://www.jcaho.org/mainmenu.html

Kaiser Family Foundation
http://www.kff.org

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
http://www.mathematic-mpr.com

The Milbank Memorial Fund
http://www.milbank.org/home.html

National Committee for Quality Assurance
http://www.ncqa.org

National Conference of State Legislatures
http://www.ncsl.org

National Governors’ Association
http://www.nga.org

National Health Policy Forum
http://www.nhpf.org

Rand
http://www.rand.org
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
http://www.rwjf.org

Society for Medical Decision Making  
http://gwis.circ.gwu.edu/~smdm

The Urban Institute  
http://www.urbaninstitute.org

World Health Organization  
http://www.who.int

**Government Agencies**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
http://www.ahrq.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
http://www.cdc.gov

Commerce Department Bureaus of Economics and Statistics  

Congressional Budget Office  
http://www.cbo.gov

Department of Health & Human Services  
http://www.dhhs.gov

Department of Labor  
http://www.dol.gov

General Accounting Office  

Government Printing Office  
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/index.html

Health Care Financing Administration  
http://www.hcfa.gov

Health Resources and Services Administration  
http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov

Library of Congress  
http://www.loc.gov

Medicare Payment Advisory Commission  
http://www.pprc.gov/body_index.html


Publishers and Distributors

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com

Brookings Institution Press

Delmar Publishers
http://www.delmar.com

Health Administration Press
http://www.ache.org/hap.html

National Academy Press
http://www.nap.edu

Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research
http://www.ahsr.org/rwjf/orderform.htm

Urban Institute Press
http://www.urban.org/uipress/about_uipress.html