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THE "COMING OF AGE" OF THE JOURNAL OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

by Robert A. Mines, Albert B. Hood and Sara Beth Hull

Student financial aid has a long history as a student service in this country beginning in 1643 when Harvard College received 100 pounds for "some poor scholler" from Lady Anne Mowlson of London (Dannells, 1977). Only recently has the student financial aid field developed a substantial body of literature and emerged as a separate professional specialty within student services. One of the reasons for its emergence as a separate specialty has been the increasing complexity of the field, as evidenced by articles in this journal in such diverse areas as computerization (Bellia, 1973) student loans (Wedemeyer, 1972), need analysis (Rutter and Wickstrom, 1976), student financial aid counseling (Fields, 1974), federal student aid (McCormick, 1972; Hogan, 1973), and professionalism and training for financial aid officers (Sanderson, 1971; Moore, 1975). It is important for student financial aid practitioners, researchers, and academicians to know how their literature evolved, to know where to find the information needed to function professionally, and finally to keep informed of advances in other student service areas in order to retain a broad perspective and knowledge base. This study examines the journal literature in student financial aid — how it evolved and how it exists today. Additionally, this research assesses the impact of the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* (JSFA) as an important source of professional literature.

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Method

The recent book edited by Packwood (1977) reviews the literature in a number of student personnel services. This volume offers the opportunity to examine the sources of the literature concerned with student financial aid published during the last decade. Packwood's book is the latest in a series of at least four major books (Wrenn, 1951; Mueller, 1961; Fitzgerald, Johnson, and Norris, 1970; and Packwood, 1977) published during the last thirty years, which give an overview of the different student personnel specialities. Through these books it was possible to examine trends in this literature over the last three decades. It was also possible to compare journal citations in the student financial aid field with those of other specialties. The journal literature in the field of orientation was examined to provide contrasting information about a student service specialty which had not developed its own professional journal.

Results

The sources of literature cited in each of the four volumes studied are shown in Table 1. The literature available to Wrenn in 1951 and Mueller in 1971 was not nearly as extensive as that available today. In addition, the authors of those books did not make any attempt to cite all of the references available to them. Therefore, the journals cited in those volumes were minimal; Wrenn cited only two and Mueller did not cite any. Instead, both authors tended to rely heavily upon books and bulletins which were available, and could not include many of the student services journals because these journals had not yet begun publication.

In their 1970 volume, Fitzgerald, Johnson, and Norris cited 48 journal articles dealing with financial aid in their bibliography. Of these 48 articles, 19% came from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 15% from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, and 10% each from the *College Board Review*, *College and University*, *College and University Business*, and *The Harvard Educational Review*.

Over twice that many — 121 articles — were cited in the chapter in the Packwood book which reviewed the literature on student financial aid. Of these 121 articles, 38% came from the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 21% from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 7% from *The College Board Review*, 6% from the *National Association of College Admission Counselor's Journal*, and 5% each from *College and University* and *The Educational Record*. The remaining 19% came from 18 different journals.

Up until the current decade, the *Journal of College Student Personnel* was the primary source of literature in the financial aid field. During the years of that journal's existence included in the Fitzgerald book (1959-1968), 14 articles were published dealing with financial aid, constituting 4% of the 398 articles published in that journal. During the decade covered by the more recent Packwood book (1965-1974), the *Journal of College Student Personnel* published 20 articles, amounting to 3% of the 689 articles published in that journal during that period. Although *Journal of College Student Personnel* articles made up a significant proportion of the financial aid literature, these articles were only a small segment of that journal's total content. The *Journal of Student Financial Aid* was established during that period and emerged as the leading reference in finan-

cial aid literature as indicated by the number of citations (46) in the Packwood book.

The overall trends in student financial aid literature can be summarized as follows: in the 1940's and 1950's, the literature appeared primarily in books, monographs and government reports; during the 1960's, the literature appeared in the more general student personnel journals such as the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, *College and University*, and the *College Board Review*; and in the 1970's, it appeared primarily in the newly established *Journal of Student Financial Aid*.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, specialist journals for several student services began publication — among them in 1971, the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*. College student orientation represents another specialty in which no such vehicle emerged, so the literature in these two fields is compared over the last two decades in Table 2. This table shows the citations of journal articles in the 1970 Fitzgerald and 1977 Packwood books from the chapters related to student financial aid and orientation.

Among the financial aid articles in the Fitzgerald book, 19% were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 13% were from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, and a number of other articles were found in a variety of journals. In 1971, the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* began publication — so that when the literature was reviewed in the Packwood book, 38% of the citations were from that journal. With the exception of the proportion of articles found in the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, the proportion of articles in other journals dropped substantially. Prior to the publication of the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, much of the financial aid literature appeared in a variety of sources. The *Journal of Student Financial Aid* apparently fulfilled a very real need in the profession.

In contrast, the literature in the orientation field has not envolved to the same point as that in financial aid. Among the orientation articles in the Fitzgerald book, 44% were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 17% from the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*, 11% from the *Journal of the National Association of Women Deans and Counselors*, with the remainder in a variety of other journals. When the literature was reviewed for the Packwood book, the picture was still very similar. Forty-six percent of the articles were from the *Journal of College Student Personnel*, 19% from the *National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Journal*, 12% from the *Journal of National Women Deans and Counselors*, and the remainder in other journals. A specialty journal in orientation has not developed as has the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* in the financial aid field.

Discussion

There has been a substantial increase in the student financial aid literature during the 1960's and 1970's. The literature in the 1960's had been predominantly published in generalist journals such as the *Journal of College Student Personnel* and the *Personnel and Guidance Journal*. The *Journal of Student Financial Aid* has emerged as the leader in the student financial aid literature. One measure of the success of a professional journal is the extent to which articles from it

are cited by other authors as they review the field. The number of citations from the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* in the Packwood book seems to support the notion that the *Journal* has come of age. Professionals in the field of student financial aid have been active and productive in sharing their ideas, perspectives, and research in the *Journal of Student Financial Aid*. It is important that they continue to contribute their manuscripts in order to insure that the *Journal* can continue to publish the best manuscripts available.

The fact that the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* publishes a great deal of the financial aid literature speaks well for the comprehensive nature of the journal, but it also raises some problems. If this journal is generally read by only those already in the financial aid field, then little communication is taking place with student service administrators and practitioners in specialties other than financial aid. With the tightening up of budgets, increasing expenses for college students in the form of tuition and room and board hikes, and declining enrollments, the field of financial aid is going to play a crucial role in the future of higher education. It is important that advances in the financial aid field and in other student service areas be exchanged. In order to avoid provinciality in any student service field, it will be incumbent upon professionals to stay abreast with developments in other fields and therefore to read and contribute to the generalist journals in the student personnel field as well.

During its relatively short life span, the *Journal of Student Financial Aid* has become the leading source of financial aid literature. In large measure this may be attributed to the competence of the editors and editorial board members as well as to the support the journal receives from its professional association and from readers and contributors on various college and university campuses.

Table 1
Sources of Student Financial Aid Articles Cited by
Various Book Authors

| | Wrenn 1951 | Mueller 1961 | Fitzgerald 1970 | Packwood 1977 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| J. Stud. Fin. Aid | | | | 46 |
| J. Col. Stud. Pers. | | | 9 | 25 |
| Col. Board Rev. | | | 5 | 9 |
| Ntl Assoc. Col. Adm. Couns J. | | | | 7 |
| Col. & Univ. Ed. Record | | | 5 | 6 |
| Col. & Univ. Bus. Pers. & Guid. J. | | | 5 | 6 |
| Harvard Ed. Rev. | | | 5 | |
| Sociology & Soc. Res. | 1 | | | |
| School & Society | 1 | | | |
| Other Journals | | | 13 articles 11 Journals | 22 articles 12 Journals |
| TOTAL NUMBER | 2 | 0 | 48 | 121 |

Table 2
Comparison of Sources of
Financial Aid and Orientation Articles

| Sources | Fitzgerald, 1970 | | Packwood, 1977 | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Financial Aid | Orientation | Financial Aid | Orientation |
| | % | % | % | % |
| J. Stud. Fin. Aid | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| J. Col Stud. Pers. | 19 | 44 | 18 | 46 |
| Coll. Board. Rev. | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Ntl. Assoc. Col. | | | | |
| Adm. Coun. J. | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Col. & Univ. | 10 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Col. & Univ. Bus. | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pers. & Guid. J. | 13 | 17 | 2 | 6 |
| NASPA J. | 6 | 3 | 4 | 19 |
| J. of NAWDAC | 2 | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Other Journals | 29 | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| TOTAL % | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| N | 48 | 36 | 111 | 52 |

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