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Literature on the Scholarly Interdisciplinary Specialty

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Specialty

● By any other name...

- Epistemic community
- Network
- Field, Group

● Communication

- Email, listserv
- Conference Proceedings
- Journal articles
- Other?

Specialty – Who's Who

- What they say
 - Survey
- What they do
 - Citation analysis

Interdisciplinary communication

● Health Policy

- Biomedicine
- Policymakers
- Policy advocates
- Federal and state



Disconnect

The Academics

● Conference: *Accessing Using Information: Challenges in Health Policy and Public Health*

● What They Said

- Availability
- Indexing (vocabulary)
- Inclusion in databases



The Policymakers



John Podesta, former Chief of Staff in the Clinton White House. Now President and CEO, Center for American Progress

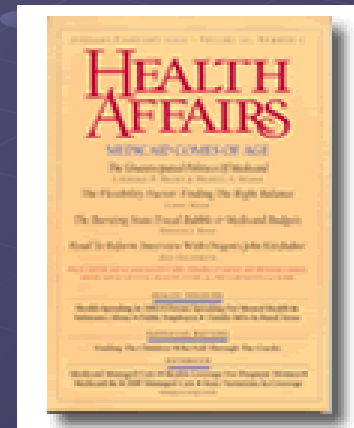
<http://www.americanprogress.org/>

“I'm sure there are journals filled with that stuff, that test and analyze and explain it, ... but no one comes forward to put that into the policy arena.”

Strangers in the Night

"And so the funded studies, meticulously done by well-respected researchers and methodologically correct, qualify for publication in journals that, by and large, are read by other researchers, not by those with power over who gets what kind of mental health services."

Feldman S. Strangers in the night: research and managed mental health care. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 1999 Sep-Oct;18(5):48-51.



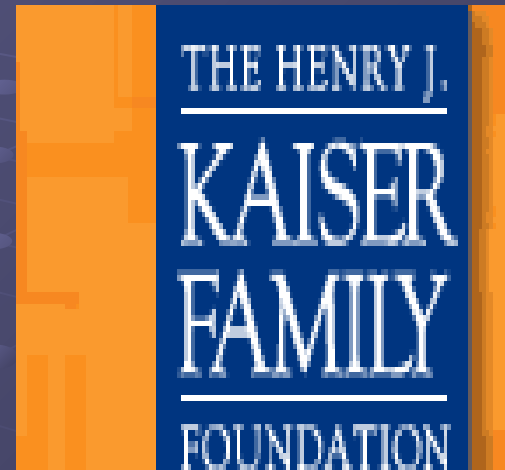
Study Methodology

- Medicaid reform
- Selected think tank organizations
- ISI's Citation Indexes

Results

- 73 references from 47 unique journal titles
- 79 think tank reports from 17 individual organizations

Results



Journals: 2,690 citations total

Reports: 1,163 citations total

Journals: 37 citations per article, average

Reports: 15 citations per report, average

Results

	Journal articles	%	Think Tank reports	%
Journal articles	1536	57%	249	21%
Think Tank reports	495	18%	578	50%
Government documents	305	11%	264	23%
Books	257	10%	13	1%
Other	97	4%	59	5%
References (total)	2690		1163	

A Little Less Grey?

1990: 67% of health sciences journals cite grey literature

Alberani V, De Castro Pietrangeli P, Mazza AM. The use of grey literature in health sciences: a preliminary survey. Bull Med Libr Assoc. 1990 Oct;78(4):358-63.

2004: 85% of health policy journal *articles* cite grey literature

2004: 61% of think tank reports cite journal articles

Trends

- Web – Greater availability
- Where is the benefit impact?
 - Policy advocates – change in policy
 - Tenure-seeking faculty – peer-reviewed literature