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Report of Special Project
Funded by
Solicitor General Canada Contributions Program
1989 - 1990
Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System

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Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System

Background

As a special condition of the 1989-90 contributions agreement with the Solicitor General of Canada, the Criminology Research Centre undertook to develop a comprehensive system to allow researchers and practitioners to more readily access the growing body of literature on the etiology and treatment of sex offenders.

While much of the literature on sex offenders can be accessed through normal library retrieval services, there are notable limitations of that method for researchers working in British Columbia. First, local library resources do not include some of the less well-known yet important journals in the area. As a result, relatively slow inter-library loan procedures must be resorted to. Second, there is a large body of research reports circulating among researchers in the area which have not yet been, and perhaps may not ever be, published. And finally, because of the huge recent growth of this literature it is difficult for those with a new interest in the area, or those who are interested in some specific aspect of the area, to gain access to the specific subset of literature that meets their needs, without the assistance of someone with specialized knowledge of the relevant literature. The Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System addresses these problems.

Database

The central resource of the Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System is a computer database which currently contains approximately 1400 citations of literature related to the etiology and treatment of sex offenders. Since 1970 there have been approximately 8000 publications relating to this topic. The database includes the most important citations from the published literature of 1970s and '80s, along with references to a large number of unpublished materials.

The database is maintained on IBM PC compatible hardware using Notebook bibliographic software. An associated translation algorithm allows conversion of selected material from the database into a format suitable for SPIRES for use on a mainframe computer.
On-Site Collection

As noted above, a significant amount of the sex offender literature is either difficult to get from local libraries in British Columbia or is circulating in unpublished form. The Criminology Research Centre has made, and will continue to make, an effort to obtain copies of such materials to facilitate researchers' access to them. Currently the on-site collection includes nearly 500 documents.

Specialized Personnel

Since one of the greatest hurdles to accessing sex offender literature for those new to the area or those with specialized needs who are not able to maintain a comprehensive on-going relationship with this literature (such as therapists, police officers, corrections personnel) is a lack of familiarity with the relevant materials, an important component of the Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System is the group of individuals who are involved in maintaining the system over time. Expansion of the database and on-site collection is a continuous activity. The individuals involved in this activity represent an important resource for researchers seeking efficient access to specific literature.

Future Development

It is likely that, in the near future, the term "Literature" will be dropped from the name of the Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System. One of the most frequent types of requests received since the inception of Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System relates to persons involved in the area, that is, WHO is involved in doing research and WHO is involved in doing therapy. To date such requests have been answered only indirectly through reference to who authored specific literature or through information held by the individuals who work on the database project. To better meet the needs of those who wish to make direct contact with researchers and treatment personnel, the database will be expanded to include individuals and organizations. In order to keep the project to a manageable size, the scope of inclusion will encompass primarily researchers in North America, and individuals and organizations providing treatment opportunities in British Columbia.
Listing of Materials in On-Site Collection
Of the
Sex Offender Literature Information and Retrieval System

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Berlin, F. *Critical issues in American Psychiatry and the law. Vol. 4: Special consideration in the psychiatric evaluation of sexual offenders against minors*.


CBC. (1987). Rapists: Can they be stopped? CBC.


Hickey, S. The program for the treatment of sex offenders. Abbotsford, B.C.: Department of the Solicitor General, Regional Psychiatric Centre (Pacific).


Ince, L. Behavior modification of sexual disorders. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*


Knight, R., Carter, D., & Prentky, R. A system for the classification of child molesters: Reliability and application.


National Victims Resource Centre. (no date). *Incest: Information regarding counselling to victims - compendium*.

National Victims Resource Centre. (no date). *Male rape compendium*.

National Victims Resource Centre. (no date). *Sex offender bibliography*. 

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National Victims Resource Centre. (no date). *Victim impact statement - compendium.*


Orno, A. (no date). *Social, psychological and surgical treatment for sexual and chronic criminals.*


Revitch, E. (1980). Gynocide and unprovoked attacks on women. (pp. 6-11).


Rosenberg, R., & Knight, R. (no date). *Determining male sexual offender subtypes using cluster analysis*. Bridgewater, MA: Massachusetts Treatment Centre Research Department.


Eastern Kentucky University, Department of Correctional Services, and Kentucky Corrections Cabinet.


Sex offender literature information and retrieval system: report of special proj