

NCDA Reports

A 20-Year Retrospective of *The Career Development Quarterly*

Walter C. Buboltz, Jr.
Mark L. Savickas

A review of *The Career Development Quarterly* was conducted for a 20-year period (Volumes 23 through 42). A total of 791 articles were classified into the 14 substantive areas of career research and practice devised by Fitzgerald and Rounds (1989). Author institutional affiliation, geographic location, and leading contributors were also computed. Two principle areas of research activity and publication were evident (life-span perspectives on career development, and career development interventions), which accounted for 51.2% of the articles examined. Overall, *Quarterly* content has remained stable and no clearly definable trends across the years were apparent in any given topic.

Journal articles provide a documentary measure of the progress of a scientific field. Published journal articles have passed the review of an editor and editorial board, thus they meet professional standards for relevance and scholarship. Moreover, we can assume that journal articles reflect the interests and thinking of the professionals in the field and can reveal changes in core concerns. Surprisingly, *The Career Development Quarterly*, unlike most other journals, has not been subjected to a comprehensive analysis of its substantive content. Therefore, this report describes the material that has been published in the *Quarterly* during the past 20 years as a means of monitoring and reflecting on the trends and progress in the discipline of career development and counseling from the perspective of members of the National Career Development Association.

This report reviews the last 20 volumes of the *Career Development Quarterly*. Our goals were to identify the major content areas published in the *Quarterly*, the leading contributing authors, and the

Walter C. Buboltz, Jr. is a doctoral student in counseling psychology at Kent State University, 316 White Hall, Kent, OH 44242. Mark L. Savickas is a professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department, Northeastern Ohio Universities, College of Medicine.

major institutions producing research about career development and counseling. We also examined the geographic locations and employment positions of the authors.

METHOD

The usual procedure in conducting a content analysis of a journal is to follow the methods used in previous content analyses of that journal. The new results can then be compared with prior results to identify trends and changes. Because we could not find a content analysis of the *Quarterly* that was published during the last 20 years, we decided to analyze its content for that period in four separate units. The period of analysis was from Volume 23 (September 1974 through June 1975) to Volume 42 (September 1993 through June 1994). This span was divided into four equal parts of 5-volume periods, which were analyzed separately. With the exception of editorials, letters to the editor, and evaluations of current career literature, we examined each article.

To examine the content, we placed each of the articles into one of the 14 dimensions of the vocational literature that have been identified by Fitzgerald and Rounds (1989): decision-making process; reciprocal work and nonwork relationships; work-related stress and coping; personnel practices and issues; workplace justice; industrial-organizational measurement issues; leadership; assessment; vocational behavior; career development interventions; women's work force participation; adjustment and development in organizations; vocational choice: p-e fit perspectives; career development: life-span perspectives; and job search. Two additional areas were added: one for case studies and one for articles that did not fit into any category identified by Fitzgerald and Rounds. This resulted in a total of 16 content areas in which an article could be classified. Difficulties involved in categorizing an article were resolved by discussion between the authors of this study after careful review of the content of the article.

Frequency counts of individual authors and institutions were made for the articles. Institutional and manuscript contributors were determined through the use of a weighted, proportional counting system. In this system, an author was assigned a value of one if the article had a single author, and fractional values if the article was jointly written (i.e., .5 for two authors, .3 for three authors, and .25 for four authors). Thus, an individual or an institution was weighted according to the proportion of authorship or affiliation attributable to that source.

Frequency counts were made for the authors' positions (professor, counselor, director) and states of residence. For articles that had more than one author from different states, each state was assigned a value of one. If more than one author of an article was from the same state, that state was assigned a value of one for that article.

TABLE 1
Number of Articles in *The Career Development Quarterly* : Volumes 23–42, 1974–1994

Volume	Year	Number of Articles
23	1974–75	60
24	1975–76	56
25	1976–77	51
26	1977–78	44
27	1978–79	43
28	1979–80	43
29	1980–81	43
30	1981–82	44
31	1982–83	32
32	1983–84	32
33	1984–85	34
34	1985–86	27
35	1986–87	31
36	1987–88	34
37	1988–89	43
38	1989–90	32
39	1990–91	33
40	1991–92	35
41	1992–93	38
42	1993–94	36
Total		791

RESULTS

During the last 20 years, the *Quarterly* has published a total of 791 articles (Vols. 23–27, $n = 254$; Vols. 28–32, $n = 194$; Vols. 33–37, $n = 169$; Vols. 38–42, $n = 174$). As shown in Table 1, during the past 20 years there has been a gradual decrease in the number of articles per volume, with Volume 23 containing 60 articles and Volume 42 containing 36 articles.

Content

Table 2 presents the frequency and percentage of the articles that are classified in the major categories for Volumes 23 through 42. As seen in Table 2, the largest single group of articles for the 20-year period (26.7%) addressed life-span career development. The category of career development interventions contained the second largest number of articles (24.5%). These two categories combined accounted for 51.2% of the articles.

TABLE 2
Content of Volumes 23-42

Volume	Content Categories															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
23	6	1		1	3			4	18		1	5	20	1		
24	5	2		2	1			2	21		11		11			
25	6	1		3				3	8	1	3	4	19		1	2
26	4			1			1	4	14		1	4	11	1		3
27	5			3	2	1		2	13		3	6	8			1
28	2	2		3				6	13		2	1	12	2		
29	3	1		1	2	1		4	9		2	3	12		1	4
30		2		1	1			6	13		2	5	11			3
31	1			2				4	8	1	2	5	9			
32	7	1	1					3	9			3	8			
33	2	4		2				5	5	1	2	1	11			1
34			1	1	1			2	6		2	4	10			
35	1			2			1	4	3		1	5	9	1	3	2
36	3							3	7	1	2	7	10		2	
37	2	1	1		1			4	5	4	1	4	9		9	2

TABLE 2 (Continued)
Content of Volumes 23-42

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Percent
38	1	2		4	4			3	8	8		1
39		2		5	5			1	8	5		1
40		1	2	4	4		3		11	3		1
41		1		2	8			6	8	9		
42				2	21			1	6	4		2
Total	4	24	12	73	194	11		36	211	5	45	24
Percent	.5	3.0	1.5	9.2	24.5	1.4		4.5	26.7	.6	5.6	3.0

Note. A = Decision-making process; B = Reciprocal work and nonwork relationship; C = Work-related stress and coping; D = Personnel practices and issues; E = Workplace justice; F = Industrial-organizational measurement issues; G = Leadership; H = Assessment; Vocational behavior; I = Career development interventions; J = Women's workforce participation; K = Adjustment and development in organizations; L = Vocational choice; P-E fit perspectives; M = Career development; Life-span perspectives; N = Job search; O = Case studies; P = Other.

Although not as dominant as articles on career development and intervention, articles that dealt with career assessment (9.2%) and with the person-environment fit perspective on career choice (9.5%) have been popular during the last 20 years. Only three other categories contained what might be called a substantial portion of articles: decision making (6.9%), case studies (5.6%), and work adjustment (4.5%). Four categories in the system devised by Fitzgerald and Rounds (1989) contained less than 2% of articles: industrial-organizational measurement issues (.25%), leadership (.25%), work-related stress and coping (.5%), and job search (.6%).

Viewing the journal content across years reveals no clearly definable trends in any given category, except for the area of case studies. Case studies became a consistent offering of the *Quarterly* from Volume 35 on (when then editor David Jepsen [1986] introduced a

TABLE 3
Leading Contributors to *The Career Development Quarterly*: Volumes 23–27, 1974–1979

Author	Total Articles	Weighted Contributions	Rank ^a
Shultz, J. L.	17	17.00	1
Thomas, L. E.	4	3.25	2
Sinick, D.	4	2.60	3
Almquist, E. M.	2	2.00	6
Healy, C. C.	2	2.00	6
Kleinberg, J. L.	2	2.00	6
Tolbert, E. L.	2	2.00	6
Menacker, J.	2	2.00	6
Prediger, D. J.	3	1.80	9
Altenor, A.	2	1.50	13
Bogie, D. W.	2	1.50	13
Harris, T. L.	2	1.50	13
Holland, J. L.	2	1.50	13
Kelly E. W., Jr.	2	1.50	13
Neely, M. A.	2	1.50	13
Salomone, P. R.	3	1.50	13
Quatano, L. A.	2	1.30	19
Gade, E. M.	3	1.30	19
Sampson, J. P., Jr.	3	1.30	19
Schlossberg, N. K.	2	1.30	19
Stripling, R. O.	3	1.30	19

Note. Only authors with a weighted contribution greater than 1.20 were included in the table.

^aAuthors who were tied in weighted contributions were given a ranked average.

TABLE 4

Leading Contributors to *The Career Development Quarterly*: Volumes 28–32, 1979–1984

Author	Total Articles	Weighted Contributions	Rank ^a
Weinrach, S. G.	11	11.00	1.0
Prediger, D. J.	6	5.50	2.0
Brown, D.	4	2.75	3.0
Kerr, B.	2	2.00	5.0
Lipsett, L.	2	2.00	5.0
Wiggins, J.	2	2.00	5.0
Winer, J. L.	3	1.55	7.0
Cole, C. G.	2	1.50	11.0
Gade, E. M.	2	1.50	11.0
Krausz, M.	2	1.50	11.0
Lange, S.	2	1.50	11.0
McDaniels, C.	2	1.50	11.0
Miller, M. J.	2	1.50	11.0
Neely, M. A.	2	1.50	11.0
Pedro, J. D.	2	1.30	15.5
Bradley, R. W.	2	1.30	15.5

Note. Only authors with a weighted contribution greater than 1.20 were included in the table.

^aAuthors who were tied in weighted contributions were given a ranked average.

TABLE 5

Leading Contributors to *The Career Development Quarterly*: Volumes 33–37, 1984–1989

Author	Total Articles	Weighted Contributions	Rank ^a
Salomone, P. R.	8	5.00	1
Hoyt, K.	4	4.00	2
Granrose, C. K.	4	3.50	3
Brown, D.	3	3.00	4
Bradley, R. W.	3	2.50	5
Collins, D. R.	2	2.00	9
Herr, E. L.	4	2.00	9
Manzi, P. A.	2	2.00	9
Meyer, K. A.	2	2.00	9
Sharf, R.	2	2.00	9
Nevo, O.	2	2.00	9
Wiggins, J. D.	2	2.00	9
Pryor, R. G. L.	2	1.50	14
McDaniels, C.	2	1.50	14
Subich, L. M.	2	1.50	14
Slaney, R. B.	3	1.25	16

Note. Only authors with a weighted contribution greater than 1.20 were included in the table.

^aAuthors who were tied in weighted contributions were given a ranked average.

new section called "Getting Down to Cases,"), and they have shown a fairly steady level since that time. The number of contributions in the various categories has remained relatively stable with life-span career development and career development interventions accounting for the largest percentage of research for every year.

Authors

Tables 3 (p. 372), 4, 5 (p. 373), and 6 (p. 374) list and rank the leading contributors (i.e., authors with a weighted contribution greater than 1.2) to the *Quarterly* for Volumes 23–27; 28–32; 33–37; and 38–42.

For Volumes 23–27, a total of 21 authors earned a weighted contribution greater than 1.2, and they accounted for 20% of the manu-

TABLE 6
Leading Contributors to *The Career Development Quarterly* :
Volumes 38–42, 1989–1994

Author	Total Articles	Weighted Contributions	Rank ^a
Salomone, P. R.	5	4.5	1.0
Bloch, D. P.	4	4.0	2.0
Savickas, M. L.	4	3.5	3.0
Niles, S. G.	4	3.0	4.0
Jepsen, D. A.	4	2.8	5.0
Betz, N.	3	2.5	7.0
Swanson, J. L.	3	2.5	7.0
Leong, F. T. L.	3	2.5	7.0
Vondracek, F. W.	4	2.3	9.0
Cheatham, H. E.	2	2.0	12.5
Cook, E. P.	2	2.0	12.5
Johnson, D. P.	2	2.0	12.5
Luzzo, D. A.	2	2.0	12.5
Reap T. G., Jr.	2	2.0	12.5
Toman, S.	2	2.0	12.5
Croteau, J.	3	1.5	18.5
Fouad, N.	2	1.5	18.5
Levinson, E.	2	1.5	18.5
Munson, W. W.	2	1.5	18.5
Young, R.	2	1.5	18.5
Subich, L. M.	2	1.5	18.5
Harrington, T. F.	2	1.3	22.0

Note. Only authors with a weighted contribution greater than 1.2 were included in the table.

^aAuthors who were tied in weighted contributions were given a ranked average.