
A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

Twenty Volumes of *ATQ*: A Content Analysis

Jerome R. Koch, PhD
Jean A. Lewis, MSED

SUMMARY. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly* is a “resource for practitioners.” This paper represents an analysis of the types of research published in *ATQ* in an effort to meet that goal. Data reveal that the majority of articles are designed to inform clinicians of the latest strategies and techniques for improving their practice. However, an increasing number of articles are being published which report results from analysis of primary and secondary data. Also on the increase is the proportion of authors who are affiliated with academic institutions and who are trained at the doctoral level. [Article copies available for a fee from The Haworth Document Delivery Service: 1-800-HAWORTH. E-mail address: <getinfo@haworthpressinc.com> Website: <<http://www.HaworthPress.com>> © 2002 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.]

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Jerome R. Koch is Associate Professor of Sociology at Texas Tech University. Jean A. Lewis is a lifelong parent, educator, and counselor.

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INTRODUCTION

Like individuals, organizations experience and pass through predictable life-events and passages. Adolescence, midlife, and end-of-life provide individuals with opportunities for reflection and retrospection. Reflective individuals often ask themselves these types of questions: *Where have the decisions I've made in the past taken me? Is this where I intended to go? Where am I headed?* These sorts of questions are equally relevant to bring to bear on the state of this journal. *ATQ* presents itself as "A Resource for Practitioners." What sorts of issues initiated its creation? In what manner have early efforts in presenting the theory and practice of treating addictions persisted? What has changed? What is to follow next?

After twenty years of responding to the needs and reflecting the principles of the professionals it serves, *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly* has become a well-established forum for reporting and exchanging ideas. Contributors provide up-to-date insight and information to inform and enhance the practice of intervention and therapy. They also engage intellectual and practical debates relevant to the discipline of treating addiction.

This paper represents a content analysis of the work that has been presented to colleagues in this forum over the past twenty years. Its methods are by no means exclusive to this work, or exhaustive of efforts others might make. This is simply an attempt to concisely describe, and in some sense quantify for comparative purposes, where *ATQ* has been and what its identity has become. In so doing, this analysis provides *ATQ*'s constituency some insight into mapping its future.

METHOD

The twenty volumes of *ATQ* published to date were analyzed in an effort to quantify elements of their content, but also with an eye for developing an interpretive summary of the body of work the journal itself represents. Two distinct categories of content are reported:

1. The demographic characteristics of the authors;
2. A typology describing the nature of the articles they wrote.

Finally, several of the volumes contain special issues that deal more specifically with topics amplifying a central theme. These are discussed in a separate portion of *Results*, below.

Demographic Variables

The following variables were used to describe the authors:

1. Is the author Male or Female?¹

2. What is the author's highest level of educational attainment?

Doctoral degree (PhD, ScD, EdD, etc.)

Physician (MD or DO)

Academic, clinical/professional master's degree (MA, MS, MSED, MSW, MDiv, etc.)

Other (BA, BSN, RN, etc.)

3. What is the author's primary institutional affiliation or work environment?

Academic institution (college or university)

Clinical setting (hospital, clinic, private practice)

Government agency (NIH, NIDA, etc.)

Other (unable to determine)

Types of Articles

The five categories that comprise the typology appear below.²

1. *Clinical or Management Techniques*. The primary purpose of this article type is to provide the reader with strategies or techniques which may improve clinical or management skills. Archetypical examples of articles such as this include:

Washousky, R. C., P. Muchowsky-Conley, and D. E. Shrey. 1984. "Sobriety Planning Activities: A Model for Treating the Alcoholic Client." *ATQ* 1(4): 85-98.

Hanson, G., and G. Liber. 1989. "A Model for the Treatment of Adolescent Children of Alcoholics." *ATQ* 6(2): 53-70.

Weinstein, B. A., and E. Slaght. 1995. "Early Identification of Alcoholism: A New Diagnostic Tool for Clinicians." *ATQ* 12(4): 117-125.

Dundas, I. 2000. "Cognitive/Affective Distancing as a Coping Strategy of Children of Parents with a Drinking Problem." *ATQ* 18(4): 85-98.

2. *Data Report*. The primary purpose of this article type is to inform the reader of evidence from surveys or secondary analysis which relate to the field of addiction recovery and therapeutic intervention. Archetypical examples of articles such as this include:

Filstead, W. J. 1984. "Gender Differences in the Onset and Course of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse." *ATQ* 1(1): 125-132.

Craig, R. J., and D. Dres. 1989. "Predicting DUI Recidivism with the MMPI." *ATQ* 6(2): 97-104.

Hanson, M., W. Gross, V. Pressley, and J. Quintana. 1995. "AIDS Knowledge and Risk Behaviors Among Alcoholic Adults." *ATQ* 12(3): 19-32.

Hartmann, D. 2000. "Locus of Control and Program Completion for State Funded Alcohol Clients." *ATQ* 18(2): 27-35.

3. *Ideological Discussion or Debate.* The primary purpose of this article type is to inform and engage the reader of the ideological, social, or political issues that comprise and challenge the discipline of addiction recovery and therapeutic intervention. Archetypical examples of articles such as this include:

- Kurtz, L. F. 1984. "Ideological Differences Between Professionals and AA Members." *ATQ* 1(2): 73-86.
- Goodyear, B. 1989. "Unresolved Questions About Alcoholism: The Debate (War?) Goes On—Is a Resolution Possible?" *ATQ* 6(2): 1-28.
- Wade, T. 1995. "What if Alcohol and Other Drug Dependencies Are Not Diagnoses? A Call for a Paradigm Shift." *ATQ* 12(1): 97-106.
- Culbreth, J. R. 2000. "Substance Abuse Counselors With and Without a Personal History of Chemical Dependency: A Review of the Literature." *ATQ* 18(2): 67-82.

4. *Spirituality.* The primary purpose of this article type is to address specific issues related to the concept of spirituality and its use in recovery and/or therapy. Archetypical examples of articles such as this include:

- Booth, L. 1984. "Aspects of Spirituality in San Pedro Peninsula Hospital." *ATQ* 1(2): 121-124.
- Brown, H. P., Jr., and J. H. Peterson, Jr. 1989. "Refining the BASIC-ISs: A Psychospiritual Approach to Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment of Drug Dependency." *ATQ* 6(3/4): 27-62.
- Mariolini, N., and J. Rehm. 1995. "Alcoholics Anonymous and Its Finances: The Interrelationship of the Material and the Spiritual." *ATQ* 12(4): 39-59.
- Jarusiewicz, B. 2000. "Spirituality and Addiction: Relationship to Recovery and Relapse." *ATQ* 18(4): 99-110.

5. *Ethnic Issues.* The primary purpose of this article type is to address specific issues related to the manner in which race or ethnicity impacts and affects recovery and/or therapy. Archetypical examples of articles such as this include:

- Wolf, A. S. 1984. "Alcohol and Violence in the Alaskan Native: A Follow-Up and Theoretical Considerations." *ATQ* 1(1): 133-138.
- Willie, E. 1989. "The Story of Alkali Lake: Anomaly of Community Recovery or National Trend in Indian Country?" *ATQ* 6(3/4): 167-174.
- Delgado, M. 1995. "Hispanic Natural Support Systems and Alcohol and Other Drug Services: Challenges and Rewards for Practice." *ATQ* 12(1): 17-32.
- Hohman, M. 1999. "Treatment Experiences of Women in a Recovery Home for Latinas." *ATQ* 19(3): 67-78.

Data in each category of the above variables were gathered for each volume of *ATQ* and are reported below. Included are summaries of the entire twenty volumes as well as data aggregated into five-year segments.

RESULTS

Twelve hundred nineteen authors in volumes 1-20 of *ATQ* wrote six hundred seventeen articles. Each of the four sets of variables that describe this body of work is detailed as follows.

Gender Ratio

Overall, 705 (60 percent) of the 1,169 authors that we were able to identify by gender were male; 464 (40 percent) were female. Figure One represents this in graphical form. The overall trend for this distribution very closely approximates the gender ratio of authors in each of the five-year increments. Essentially, male authors outnumber female authors by about two to one.³

Authors' Educational Attainment

Overall, 61 percent of all authors hold a doctoral degree of some type. These include the PhD, EdD, ScD and the like. Figure Two indicates that the percentage of authors who hold the doctorate rises somewhat incrementally over time. Fifty percent of the authors in volumes 1-5 have doctoral degrees. This rises to 59 percent in volumes 6-10; 64 percent in volumes 11-15; and 69 percent in the final five volumes. Similarly, there is a steady, but less pronounced decrease in the percentage of authors who hold master's degrees of one form or another (MA, MS, MSW, MDiv, etc.). Nearly one-third (32 percent) of the authors in volumes 1-5 hold master's degrees; this drops to 23 percent of the authors in the last five volumes. A small percentage of physicians and others (BA, RN, etc.) round out the field of authors.

Authors' Institutional Affiliation

A parallel finding is reported below regarding the settings in which these researchers do their work. Overall, the percentage of authors who work in academic settings (44 percent of the total) is roughly equal to that of the clinicians (41.5 percent of the total). However, the graph in Figure Three shows a rather dramatic shift in these data. Clinicians outnumber academics in the first ten volumes; the converse is the case in the last ten volumes. These two types of researchers have essentially switched places in the extent to which their work is published in *ATQ*. This is not surprising given the incremental increase over time of those authors who hold doctoral degrees as compared to others.

Article Type

There has been a subtle but pronounced shift in the type of research that has appeared in *ATQ* over time. This is consistent with the evidence showing an

FIGURE 1. Gender Ratio of Authors

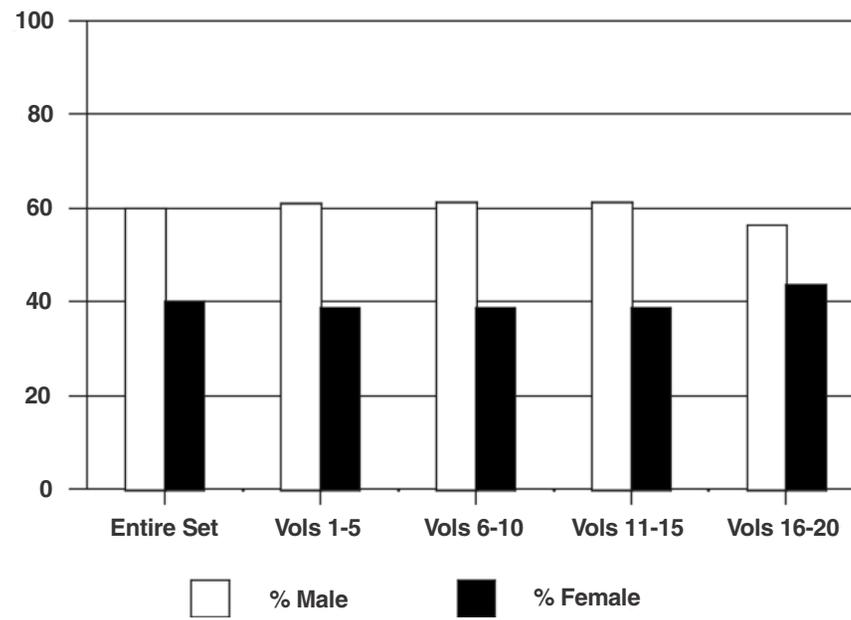
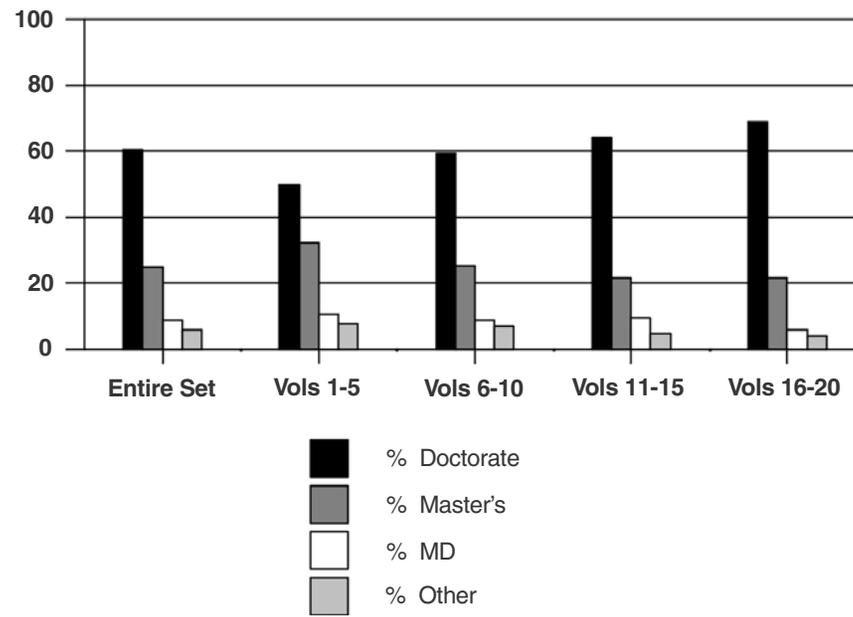


FIGURE 2. Authors' Educational Attainment



increasing trend toward doctorally trained authors who work in academic settings. Figure Four shows that a significant majority of the articles in *ATQ* are designed to enhance the clinical or management skills of the readership. This has remained the case throughout the entire twenty-volume set. However, the "Data Report" has attained an increasingly prominent second place.

In the first five years of its existence, less than three percent of the articles reported results from analysis of survey or secondary data. By the last five years, this increased seven-fold to nearly 21 percent. This finding amplifies the apparent increasing priority the editorial board places on data analysis to support the work that is published to enhance clinical and management skills.

Finally, there is a mildly increasing emphasis over time with regard to publishing articles dealing with ethnic issues and spirituality. This is discussed in more detail below in the context of a brief report on the special issues that have appeared in *ATQ* on a regular basis.

The Special Issues

Thirteen of the twenty volumes of *ATQ* contain issues that are guest-edited and all the articles discuss aspects of a specific topic. Several are double issues. Volume eleven, for example, is entirely devoted to the same special topic. The special issues are as follows:

1. 1984. Volume 1(3): "Alcohol and Sexual Dysfunction: Issues in Clinical Management."
2. 1985. Volume 2(2): "Psychosocial Issues in the Treatment of Alcoholism."
3. 1985-86. Volume 2(3-4): "Treatment of Black Alcoholics."
4. 1986. Volume 3(2): "Drunk Driving in America."
5. 1987. Volume 4(2): "The Treatment of Shame and Guilt in Alcoholism Counseling."
6. 1989. Volume 6(1): "Co-Dependency: Issues in Treatment and Recovery."
7. 1990. Volume 7(1): "Treating Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Among Homeless Men and Women: Nine Community Demonstration Grants."
8. 1993. Volume 10(3-4): "Treatment of the Chemically Dependent Homeless: Theory and Implementation of Fourteen American Projects."
9. 1994. Volume 11(1-4): "Self-Recovery: Treating Addictions Using Transcendental Meditation and Maharishi Ayur-Veda, Parts I and II."
10. 1995. Volume 12(2): "Treatment of the Addictions: Applications of Outcome Research for Clinical Management."

FIGURE 3. Authors' Institutional Affiliation

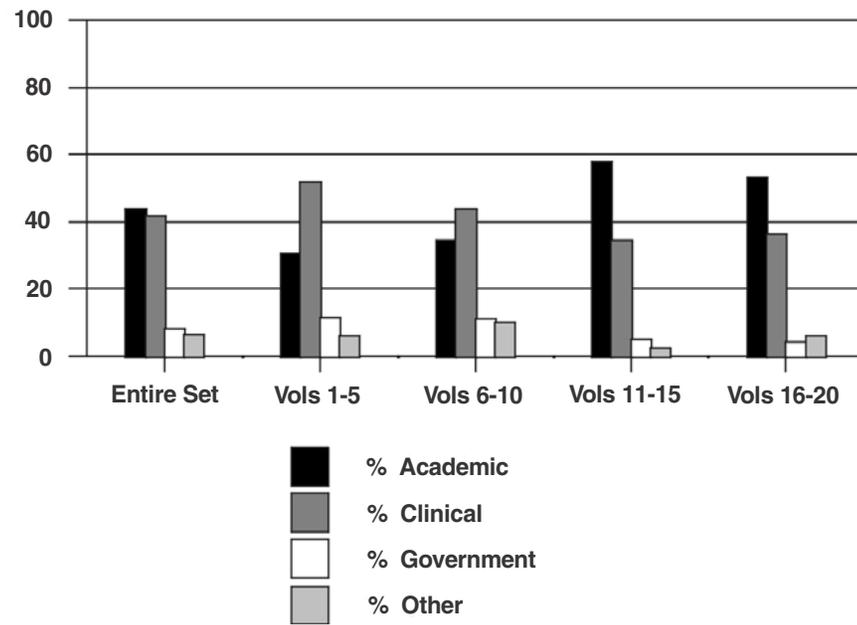
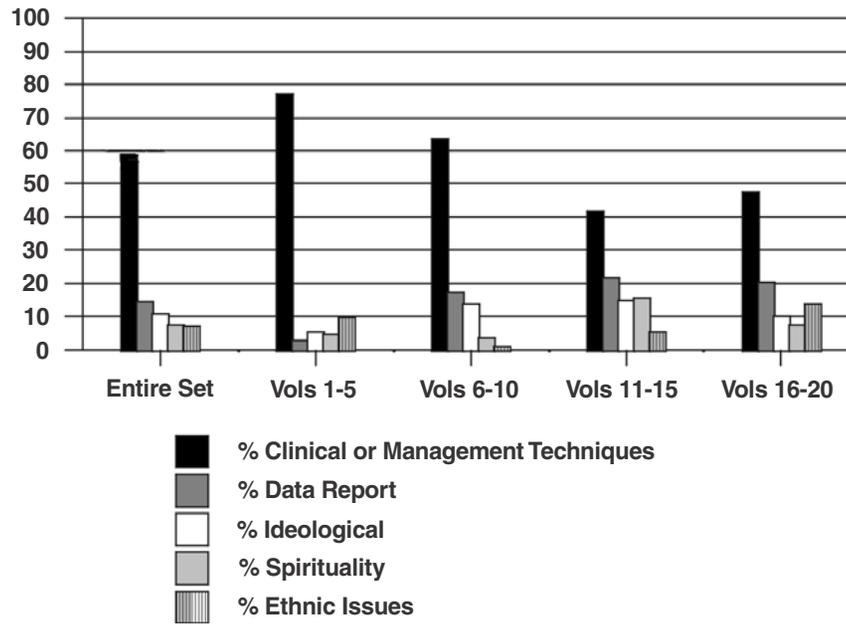


FIGURE 4. Article Type



11. 1998. Volume 16(1-2): "Alcohol Use/Abuse Among Latinos: Issues and Examples of Culturally Competent Services."
12. 1999. Volume 17(1-2): "Homelessness Prevention in Treatment of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness: Logic Models and Implementation of Eight American Projects."
13. 2000. Volume 18(3): "Women, Alcohol/Other Drugs and Trauma: The Interface Between Treatment and Research."

Disenfranchised groups are of significant interest to the editors of these special issues. For example, three of these thirteen publications are devoted to the needs of the homeless. African-American and Hispanic concerns are each covered by one special issue. Women and spirituality are also treated separately in these special reports.

Overall, a substantial proportion of the articles dealing with ethnic concerns and spirituality appear in special issues of *ATQ*. Over half (54.4 percent) of all articles addressing ethnic concerns appear in volume 2(3-4) and volume 16(1-2). Finally, over a third (38.3 percent) of all articles concerned mainly with spirituality appear in volume 11(1-4).

DISCUSSION

"A Resource for Practitioners" continues its work. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly* has been remarkably consistent for twenty years in publishing timely and up-to-date insight and information to enhance the work of clinicians and managers working in the field of addiction recovery. The most consistent finding in this content analysis is the predominance of the "Clinical/Management Technique" article type.

Even so, there have been some gradual but pronounced changes over time in the other emphases reflected in the published work. We would note three trends:

1. An increasing tendency for authors to hold academic doctorates.
2. An increasing tendency for authors to be affiliated with academic institutions.
3. An increasing proportion of the articles published to be data reports.

The body of work *ATQ* represents is now comprised of work that emerged from the academic and practical sides of the discipline in relatively equal terms. However, this finding has taken twenty years to develop. The first ten years reflect a disproportionate emphasis on practical matters; the converse is true for the past ten years. The extent to which the shifting trend continues toward more academically trained authors who are affiliated with universities remains to be seen. The constituency served by the authors and editors of *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly* will determine this.

NOTES

1. In cases where this was not obvious by the name, the two authors offered "best-guess" opinions and, if both agreed, a determination was made. In fifty cases (out of 1,219), this was left undetermined.

2. While many of the articles categorized as "Spirituality" or "Ethnic Issues" could also have been categorized as "Clinical or Management Techniques," their primary purpose tended to highlight the special needs of ethnic populations or a specifically spiritual approach to treatment.

3. While not reported in a graph or table, it is useful to note that this basic two to one ratio of male to female authors also describes lead authors. Sixty-three percent of all first authors were male; 37% were female.

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