Interdisciplinary Information Services at the Center of Alcohol Studies at Yale and Rutgers (1940-2013)

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**Background**

The first of its kind, the Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, is known nationally and internationally as a leader in alcohol research, education and training, and the documentation and publication of alcohol literature. It is a multidisciplinary institute dedicated to the study of substance use, with a special emphasis on alcohol use and consequences.

**Scholarly Publications in Alcohol Studies**

The CAS Library evolved from its journal, the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol (later the Journal of Studies on Alcohol, currently the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs). It houses a unique and rare collection of artifacts starting from the early 30s and documents the history of Alcohol Studies, including the earliest examples of indexing and abstracting interdisciplinary topics. The forthcoming 75th anniversary of the JSAD inspired a project to assess the past with an eye to the future.

**Documenting and Disseminating Alcohol Literature**

Timeline Highlights

- **1939-1940**
  - Carnegie Grant to review biological literature on effects of alcohol (Jolliffe, Jellinek)
- **1940**
  - Founding the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol (Haggard, Jellinek)
- **1940-1942**
  - QJSA reviews on the medical aspects of alcohol (Jellinek)
- **1940s**
  - Alcohol Addiction and Chronic Alcoholism (Jellinek)
  - Alcohol, Science and Society (Lectures of the Summer School)
  - Classics of Alcohol Literature by QJSA
  - Memoirs of the Section of Studies on Alcohol - Series
- **1950s**
  - Popular Pamphlets on Alcohol Problems
  - Discussion Guides for Questions about Alcohol (McCarthy)
  - Exploring Alcohol Questions (for Grade 7 and up)
  - Yale Posters on Alcoholism
  - Monograph Series
  - Lay Supplements of the QJSA (later: Popular Pamphlets on Alcohol Problem)
  - Facts about Alcohol
- **1960s**
  - The Disease Concept of Alcoholism (Jellinek)
  - Dictionary of Words About Alcohol (Keller)
  - International Bibliography of Studies on Alcohol

**Popular Publications in Alcohol Studies**

Based on:

- Master catalog (over 250,000 cards)
- Bibliographic info for books and articles on alcohol since 1472
- Full-text articles in the Raymond McCarthy Collection

**History Matters Today**

- Interdisciplinary topics since Day 1
- Strong collaboration between divisions
- Variety of styles, formats, goals
- Reaching out to all audiences
- Using innovations of information science

**Take-Away**

- Respect your past
  - Reflect on former success
  - Save traditions
- Assess your present
  - Audience to serve
  - Needs to fulfill
- Tweak traditions to anticipated needs
- Dare to experiment
- Find partners to collaborate

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