Book Review: Readings In Rehabilitation Counseling ReSearch. Brian Bolton And Paul Cooper (Eds.).

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Bolton and Cooper have collected a list of recent rehabilitation research articles and assembled them into this book intended as a sequel to their previously published Rehabilitation Counseling Research. According to the editors, the two volumes can be used together in a complementary fashion to prepare future consumers of research rather than research practitioners. Whereas the first book described research design and methodology, this book of readings provides practical examples of actual research.

Progress in rehabilitation research has long been constrained by the very real difficulties of imposing an experimental design on a service delivery system as well as oftentimes capricious federal research funding priorities. The result is an unevenness in our knowledge of “what works” in rehabilitation. To a certain extent, the articles represented in this volume reflect both the heights and the mediocrity possible in research conducted under such constraints.

Because the authors’ main purpose is to provide articles illustrative of the topics in their former book, a certain amount of editorial license was taken in placing articles in each of the eight sections: Introduction, Research Design, Assessment of Outcome, Prediction of Outcomes, Factor Analysis, Rehabilitation Program Evaluation, Case Weighting Systems and Research Utilization. Such irritations aside, the authors appear to have chosen articles which are topical as well as exemplary examples of particular types of research design. They have also wisely integrated the articles by an editorial introduction to each section. Among the most useful of the articles from a practitioner’s point of view is an article on the effectiveness of Azrin’s Job Club approach to placement and one describing an excellent model for service delivery to severely disabled individuals.

Notably lacking are articles on research with deaf clients or service delivery systems to deaf clients. Perhaps more of an indictment of our progress in these areas than of the book itself, this lack does suggest areas of concern in deafness rehabilitation. Among these include research on patterns and adequacy of services, the competencies of service providers, client satisfaction and models of effective intervention, job development and placement particularly of those deaf clients presently underserved, including non-white and multiply disabled.

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