Resources for forensic psychology.

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Resources for forensic psychology: a selective bibliography.

Abstract
Libraries supporting a forensic psychology undergraduate and/or graduate level college program need to collect materials from a range of disciplines – psychology, law, psychiatry and criminal justice. In this guide I identify the major reference works, journals, databases and other resources that should be in a good forensic psychology collection.

Keywords

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Introduction
Forensic psychology is an exciting and relatively new field at the intersection of psychology and law. There are numerous definitions of what, exactly, forensic psychology is (e.g. Brigham and Grisso, 2003, and Bartol and Bartol, 1999; p.3). Generally, forensic psychologists work at the interface between law and psychology. This can include assessing suspects for the courts, treating mentally-ill offenders in correctional institutions and in the community, advising the court with respect to child custody, and assessing the dangerousness of convicted criminals. Forensic psychologists carry out research in many areas, including psychology within the courtroom such as jury selection and decision making, the psychopathology of criminal activities including violence, murder and abuse, and the psychology of police work. Colleges across the country are introducing new courses and new majors in response to the demand from students eager to study this field. As one of the few college libraries in the country supporting undergraduate majors in various criminal justice fields, including forensic psychology, we occasionally get requests for resource-lists from librarians. Enlarging library collections to support entirely new courses can be a daunting challenge: this brief bibliography is being written to ease that burden.

John Jay College offers both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in forensic psychology, and, with the Graduate Center at CUNY, is introducing a doctoral degree in the fall of 2003. Our core library collection centers on criminal justice, backed by a law collection and a typical liberal arts college collection. Materials of use to our forensic psychology students fall into the categories of psychology, psychiatry, criminal justice and law.

This bibliography will not attempt to cover the standard general psychology sources, but will focus more narrowly on forensic psychology. The aim is to identify those reference works that, in addition to the regular psychology collection, are essential to any library attempting to support a forensic psychology program. A few monographs that might be considered as
useful additions to the reference collection have been included, but generally the focus is on traditional reference-type works. Textbooks are not included.

**Core forensic psychology reference works**

There are two classic works that are utterly essential; Weiner and Hess’ *Handbook of forensic psychology* (1999) and *Principles and practice of forensic psychiatry* (Bluglass and Bowden, 1990). Both provide comprehensive overviews of each topic covered, with extensive bibliographies. *Principles and practice*… is more readable, and more accessible to undergraduates, but has the relative disadvantage of covering United Kingdom law more extensively than U.S. A good companion to these works is the recent publication, *The California School of Professional Psychology Handbook of Juvenile Forensic Psychology* (Ribner, 2002) which concerns itself with the interaction of juveniles with the criminal justice system.

The work most frequently requested at our reference desk is the *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM)*, published by the American Psychological Association. This work provides a uniform classification of mental disorders, and is revised regularly, though infrequently. The *DSM-IV- text revision* (APA, 2000) is the latest edition – the text, but not the actual disorder classification was revised from the fourth edition. A number of secondary works supporting, clarifying and discussing the DSM-IV are readily available.

There are a number of good, general psychology encyclopedias which will not be mentioned here. However, volume 11 of the excellent and recently published *Handbook of psychology* (Weiner, 2003) is devoted entirely to forensic psychology, and thus merits a mention. Volume 1, *History of psychology* has a chapter on forensic psychology. The rest of the set is magnificent, though perhaps too technical for all but the more advanced undergraduates. In addition to volume 11, particularly notable and relevant to forensic psychology are the volumes on research methods, assessment, and personality and social psychology.

Dictionaries are useful for quick definitions for students assuring themselves they are on track. We’ve found Kaplan’s *Comprehensive glossary of psychiatry and psychology* (1991) and the APA’s *Glossary* (1984) to be useful for the psychological aspects, with *Black’s Law dictionary* (Garner, 1999) being our standard for law. Butterworth’s *Medico-legal encyclopedia* (Mason, 1987) and the Sloane-Dorland *Annotated medical-legal dictionary* (Sloane, 1987) are also useful on occasion, though both have drawbacks: the former is U.K. orientated, and the latter emphasizes medicine rather than psychology.

**Bibliography**


The DSM-IV was composed by the American Psychiatric Association to provide a consistent and uniform classification of mental disorders. It is the standard and the most common classification system used for describing mental disorders, and describes the identifying symptoms of each.
This edition revises the text of the DSMV IV, but not the actual classification of disorders.

One part addresses forensic settings, and contains pieces – mostly journal article excerpts – on ethical dilemmas encountered at the psychology-law interface. This is an interesting compilation of material previously published elsewhere, but gathered together in a convenient form. It includes ethical guidelines created by various professional organizations.

Another impressive comprehensive work, written by a team of 141 experts attempting to provide an overview of “the principles and practices of forensic psychiatry” to “professionals dealing with mental disorder and law and crime”. There are 1600 pages with an 84 page bibliography, and an index of legal cases from 9 different countries, but most are from England. Of particular interest is the story of Daniel McNaughton, with a description of the murder and trial that led to the development of the McNaughton rules (pages 85-88, with many more references throughout the book). This work includes chapters on aspects of forensic psychiatry in a number of different countries, and so it is a good source for anyone interested in practices outside the United States. The one drawback to this work is that the legal emphasis is very much on the English system. Despite this, it is a valuable and readable work.

The first edition of this classic work was published in 1891.

Contains short dictionary-style definitions.

Most entries in this small one volume encyclopedia are about a half page long, with good short bibliographies. Most of the legal references are to English law, but mention is made of significant U.S. situations.

Though not yet published at the time of writing, this forthcoming work promises to be a useful addition to the reference collection. The publisher promises to include an overview and history of the discipline, and considerable coverage of assessment and mental disorders relevant to forensic psychology.

Concerned mainly with interaction of juveniles with the criminal justice system, considering the juvenile as an offender, but it also has sections on family courts, custody, gangs, and
relationships with the police. There are six sections: juveniles in the justice system, understanding incarcerated juveniles, assessing juveniles in the justice system, treating juveniles in the justice system, juveniles in family court and juveniles in dependency court.

Sacks, M., Sledge, M. and Warren, C. (Eds), (1995), Core Readings in Psychiatry: An Annotated Guide to the Literature, 2nd edition, American Psychiatric Press, Washington, DC. Two chapters are relevant: one on forensic psychiatry and the other on violence. Classic readings in each of these overlapping areas are identified and described. Both articles and books are included.

Sloane, R. (1987), Sloane-Dorland Annotated Medical-Legal Dictionary, West, New York. A good dictionary linking law and medicine. Entries cite relevant cases, and provide quotations from them. However, the emphasis is on medicine rather than psychology. Includes a good entry on polygraphs.

Weiner, I. (Ed.), (2003), Handbook of Psychology, Wiley, New York. 12 volumes. Impressive general psychology reference source, particularly notable as volume 11 is devoted entirely to forensic psychology. Volume 11, at the very least, is absolutely essential for any forensic psychology collection.

Weiner, I and Hess, A. (Eds), (1999), Handbook of Forensic Psychology, 2nd edition, Wiley, New York. This is an excellent comprehensive resource, and probably the best starting point for information on any topic in forensic psychology. It has over 700 pages with 26 chapters written by different experts, and divided into 6 sections. Most aspects of the field are covered, ranging from a history of the discipline to practical applications and professional practice. There are extensive bibliographies at the end of each chapter. Highly recommended.

**General reference sources on crimes and violence**

Aggression and violence involve the more sensational aspects of forensic psychology, and are common topics of reference queries. There are some works that make quite useful ready reference materials, available for providing quick overviews of the more popular topics. *Lethal violence 2000* (Hall, 1996) provides good overviews of murder, sex murder, police use of deadly force, media violence and other popular topics. Most of the articles are written by psychologists or psychiatrists. *Science, treatment, and prevention of antisocial behaviors: application to the criminal justice system* (Fishbein, 2000) attempts to convey the biological basis for psychopathology. Particularly notable are the chapters on serial killers, sexual offending, and neurological perspectives on violence. The *Handbook of antisocial behavior* (Stoff, Breiling and Maser, 1997) focuses on interpersonal aggression, defined as “threats, attempts or actual infliction of physical harm”. The *Handbook of the sociology of mental health* (Aneshensel and Phelan, 1999) is useful for placing mental health into a sociological context, and is relevant to contextualizing forensic psychology in a criminal justice background. *Sourcebook on violence against women* (Renzetti, Edleson and Bergen, 2001) reviews current research on intimate violence.
Students occasionally need information about specific crimes and criminals, sometimes in order to fulfill an assignment requiring case examples. The *Encyclopedia of World Crime* (Nash, 1989-1999) provides information about mainly U.S. criminals, with each article accompanied by a few references to other sources. One unusual feature is a list of criminals by type of crime. *Lexis-Nexis Universe* provides access to newspaper accounts of crimes sensational enough to be covered by the media. For time periods of greater than two decades or so ago, we rely on the *New York Times Index* and the *New York Times* (available on microfilm and as a fulltext database, back to 1851) for coverage of local crimes. Of course, our criminal justice book collection contains accounts of many of the more infamous crimes. Though of very limited availability, trial transcripts can be extremely useful, not just for information about a crime or criminal, but also for students interested in psychological aspects of trial proceedings. Our legal databases, *Lexis-Nexis Universe* and *Westlaw* provide access to those few criminal cases reported in the state and federal reporters.

**Bibliography**

Includes sections on social consequences and antecedents of mental illness, and alternative understandings of mental health.

The editor aims to educate an audience familiar with criminal justice fields with the scientific research relevant to their disciplines. Considerable emphasis is put on genetics and neuropsychology.

Includes articles on murder and sex murder, police use of deadly force, media violence, infanticide, murder-suicide and others. Most of the authors are psychologists or psychiatrists.

8 volumes, with indexes and supplements. Particularly useful for information about the misdeeds of criminals. There are extensive indexes, including indexes of personal names according to the type of crime committed. Originally published in 1989, but supplements update the work to 1999.

Written by some of the leading researchers in the field, this work reviews types of violence against women, prevention and intervention, theories about violence against women and research methods. A very useful and interesting one volume summary of a major continuing and under-publicized public health problem.
Divided into 4 parts: clinical issues, development of antisocial behavior, biology of antisocial behavior, prevention treatment and management of antisocial behavior, and lastly, special issues and populations (including substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual aggression, etc.)

In the courtroom

The interaction of psychology and law occurs over a wide range. Jury selection, eye-witness evidence, expert testimony, and competency to stand trial are just a few of the topics. Slovenko’s Psychiatry in law / law in psychiatry (2002) provides excellent overviews of these and other topics. Moriarty (1996), Parry (2000) and Shuman (1994) provide invaluable coverage of psychological evidence and testimony in court. Domestic violence research has been growing enormously during the past decade; the evolving legal aspects are covered by Dalton (2001) and Violence against women (Frazee, Noel and Brenneke, 1997-1999). More general sources that identify and discuss legal issues relevant to mental health professionals include the APA series Law and mental health professionals which covers laws in specific states, Gutheil and Appelbaum’s Clinical handbook of psychiatry and the law (2000) and the law student casebook Law and the mental health system: civil and criminal aspects (Reisner, Slobogin, and Rai, 1999). The Evolution of mental health law (Frost and Bonnie, 2001) provides a historical perspective of how the law has developed with respect to mental health issues.

Bibliography

3 volumes, updated with paperback supplements and pocket inserts. A very current practice manual for defense lawyers.

Written by a psychiatrist for lawyers and law students, this work devotes a chapter to issues such as selecting jurors, examining witnesses, eyewitness reliability, criminal behavior, mental competence and divorce and child custody.

A casebook, designed for teaching, and thus useful for identifying the major issues, but not as comprehensive in its coverage as a treatise.

Loose-leaf treatise addressing legal remedies and issues. Includes an overview and history of the Violence Against Women Act, and appropriate federal discrimination statutes.
Frost, L. and Bonnie, R. (Eds.), (2001), The Evolution of Mental Health Law, American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. The emphasis is on the last quarter of the 20th century in the United States, though there is one chapter on Russia. Covers criminal responsibility, risk assessment, the death penalty, psychiatric evidence, ethical issues, and more.


Hall, H. and Sbordone, R. (Eds.), (1998), Disorders of Executive Functions: Civil and Criminal Law Applications, St. Lucie Press, Boca Raton, FL. Damage to the brain can affect behavior. This work focuses on neuropsychology relevant to both personal injury cases and criminal cases. Almost half the book is devoted to a glossary and a 90 page unannotated bibliography compiled by the American Board of Professional Psychology and entitled Core Readings in Forensic Psychology.

Moriarty, J.(1996-2003), Psychological and Scientific Evidence in Criminal Trials, Clark Boardman Callaghan/West, Deerfield, IL. A loose-leaf treatise, regularly updated, which thoroughly covers both scientific and psychological evidence. Unusually, sections are devoted to battered woman, child abuse and rape trauma ‘syndromes’, in addition to the more commonly covered topics of insanity and competence.

Parry, J.(2000), Criminal Law Handbook on Psychiatric and Psychological Evidence and Testimony, American Bar Association, Washington, DC. This relatively slim (280 page) volume aims to present a “comprehensive, in-depth treatment of psychiatric and psychological evidence and testimony keyed to specific legal standards”, and does manage to pack a lot into a relatively small space. This is a good, quick-reference tool, though not good for in-depth analysis. The appendixes contain bibliographies and case indexes, including one devoted to Daubert v Dow and Frye status in the different states (Daubert and Frye are the two most significant cases which defined legally acceptable standards for scientific testimony). There is an accompanying volume Civil law handbook on psychiatric and psychological evidence and testimony.

Shuman, D.(1994-1998), Psychiatric and psychological evidence, 2nd revised edition, Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, Colorado Springs, CO. Written by a law professor, this work addresses issues relating to expert psychological and psychiatric testimony in court. Court proceedings, competence, civil commitment, are discussed, in addition to overviews of treatment, diagnosis and theories of mental illness, useful for lawyers and other non-psychologists, and of course, students! Published in loose-leaf form, so updating sheets can be added easily to the appropriate sections in the ring binder. There are case, statute, subject and cited authors (“authorities”) indexes. Search strategies using command language for researching specific topics in LEXIS and Westlaw are included at the end of each chapter.
Slovenko, R.(2002), Psychiatry in Law / Law in Psychiatry, Brunner Routledge, New York. Two volumes, the former, Psychiatry in Law, concentrating on forensic psychiatry issues, including expert witnesses, evidence, criminal cases, sex offender legislation, and the latter covering hospitalization of the mentally ill and psychiatric malpractice. The work concentrates more on legal rather than clinical issues.


Wulach, J. and Cling, B. (1993-1999), Law & Mental Health Professionals: New York, American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. Contains sections on Legal credentialing, Forms of business practice, Insurance reimbursement and deductions for services, Privacy of professional information, Practice related to the law: Families and juveniles; Other civil matters; Civil/criminal matters; Criminal matters; Voluntary or involuntary receipt of state services, and Limitations on and liability for practice. Other editions in this series cover other states.

**Abnormal psychology and psychiatry sources**

Reference works on abnormal psychology are readily identifiable. The DSM-IV has already been noted. These recent texts are good additions to the collection.

**Bibliography**


Livesley, W. (Ed.),(2001), Handbook of Personality Disorders: Theory, Research and Treatment, Guilford Press, New York. Includes a chapter on forensic issues, noting that “personality disorder as a form of mental abnormality has been recognized in Anglo-American law for the past 200 years or so, and over the past century it has become an important concept in several distinct areas of law”.

Millon, T., Blaney, P. and Davis, R. (Eds.),(1999), Oxford Textbook of Psychopathology, Oxford University Press, New York. Includes a chapter by Robert D. Hare on psychopathy and sadistic personality disorder. Divided into 4 parts - Foundations, Major axis 1 disorders, Other axis 1 syndromes, and Axis 2 disorders. Includes extensive bibliographies.
Interviewing and assessment

Long before forensic psychology existed as a discipline, witnesses were testifying in courtrooms as the sanity of defendants. Physicians were generally called to determine whether or not a defendant was sane enough to be considered responsible for his behavior, until 1940, when the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in People v Hawthorne that psychologists were also competent to assess insanity. Psychologists now carry out a wide range of forensic evaluations for the courts, including competency to stand trial, and more controversially, dangerousness. Other types of evaluations are made to support decision making in cases involving child custody, and in juvenile courts. The two most useful works in this area are by Grisso and Melton et al. Grisso (2003) concentrates on evaluations for the criminal courts, while Melton et al (1997) cover a broader range. Interviewing and assessment skills are essential for practicing clinical forensic psychologists. One of the best texts in this area is now 3 decades old, but still widely used and respected (MacKinnon and Michels, 1971).

Bibliography


Antony, M. and Barlow, D. (Eds.),(2002), Handbook of Assessment and Treatment Planning for Psychological Disorders, Guilford Press, New York. Chapters are each devoted to a specific problem area, e.g. depression, substance abuse, personality disorders, etc. and have extensive bibliographies. The aim of the editors is to aid practitioners in choosing appropriate assessment instruments in order to gather enough information to deliver standardized evidence based treatments. There is an index to authors cited in addition to the traditional subject index. Though not a specifically forensic work, this is a useful work providing authoritative, empirically based comprehensive coverage of common psychological disorders.

Eisen, M., Quas, J. and Goodman, G. (Eds), (2002), Memory and Suggestibility in the Forensic Interview, Lawrence Erlbaum, Mahwah, NJ. Reviews the current state of research and beliefs on memory and suggestibility in adults and children in a forensic context. False memories, hypnosis, credibility, stress, abuse, anatomical dolls and face identification are all addressed. Extensive bibliographies are at the end of each chapter, and are indexed by author at the back of the book. A useful aid to understanding contemporary thought in a controversial area.

Gacono, C.(Ed.),(2000), The Clinical and Forensic Assessment of Psychopathy: A Practitioner's Guide, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ. A technical and advanced work, suitable for advanced under graduate and graduate students. The final section consists of “special applications” including psychopathy and the workplace, substance abuse, sexual aggression and hostage situations. There is an extensive bibliography at the end of the book, and following each chapter.
Grisso, T. et al, 2003, Evaluating Competencies: Forensic Assessments and Instruments, 2nd edition, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York. Volume 7 in a series Perspectives in Law & Psychology. Discusses 37 instruments for evaluating a range of legal competencies. Grisso is one of the foremost authorities in evaluating legal competencies of adults and juveniles. This is one work in a valuable series published by Kluwer called Perspectives in law and psychology. Most of these works would not normally be considered as suitable for the reference collection, but all should be available in a forensic psychology library.

Inbau, F., Reid, J., Buckley, J. and Jayne, B., (2001), Criminal Interrogation and Confessions. 4th edition, Aspen Publishers, Gaithersburg, MD. This is possibly the best known manual of police interrogation techniques. The first edition was published in 1962, and it and subsequent editions have influenced interrogation tactics in the U.S. since. It is a practical guide, not an academic work. The authors are a law professor, and former law enforcement professionals, not psychologists. There some references to law cases, but few other citations, and no bibliography. Provides some idea as to what actually goes on during an interrogation. Earlier editions elicited discussion in the legal literature regarding some of the suggestions, including that police lie to suspects. The danger of eliciting false confessions is addressed in chapter 15.


Melton, G. et al (Eds.),(1997), Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers, 2nd edition, Guilford Press, New York. Well-respected and much-used comprehensive work aimed at readers in both the legal and mental health communities. Glossaries at the end help with jargon from both fields. Five sections divide the book; general considerations; the criminal process; non-criminal adjudications; children and families; and communicating with the courts. Short bibliographies follow each chapter.

Rogers, R. (Ed.), (1997), Clinical Assessment of Malingering and Deception, 2nd edition, Guilford Press. Authoritative, scholarly work edited and written by clinical psychologists which discusses and evaluates the current state of research in this area. The editors have arranged chapters under the headings of diagnostic issues, psychometric assessment, specialized methods and conclude with summaries. There is a useful chapter on polygraphy and integrity testing which describes, discusses and evaluates the evidence for the reliability and validity of these controversial techniques.

Sattler, J. (1998), Clinical and Forensic Interviewing of Children and Families: Guidelines for the Mental Health, Education, Pediatric, and Child Maltreatment Fields, Jerome M. Sattler, San Diego, CA. This practical guide is suitable for students and beginning professionals in human services fields, and could be used as a textbook. It includes interview transcripts, many sample questions and questionnaires, and a glossary.
Treatment

It is important to provide students with easy access to current accepted psychiatric and psychotherapeutic treatment practices. *Guide to treatments that work* (Nathan and Gorman, 2002) advocates an evidence-based approach to treating mental illness. Caballo’s *International handbook of cognitive and behavioural treatments for psychological disorders* (1998) has chapters particularly relevant to forensic psychology on posttraumatic stress disorder, sexual offenders (sexual paraphilias) and impulse control disorders.

Surveys of the prevalence of psychiatric illness among offenders in prisons and jails have found very varied rates, but it is clear that rates of mental disorders are substantially higher in incarcerated populations than amongst the general public. There are a few works that focus on treating offenders with mental illness - Van Whitlock and Lubin (1999) wrote their bibliography in response to perceived difficulties in identifying the literature in this area. Hollin's *Handbook of offender assessment and treatment* (2001) reviews the literature and has extensive bibliographies at the end of each chapter. Landsberg and Smiley’s (2001) *Forensic mental health* is particularly useful for its descriptions of programs for offenders actually in operation, both in institutions and in the community.

Bibliography

A highly-publicized recent report on mentally ill prisoners and the conditions they face in U.S. prisons. Includes citations to previous research. Also available on the web at www.hrw.org/reports/2003/usa1003

Contains the full treatment guidelines developed by the American Psychiatric Association. One guideline covers evaluations and the 9 others address major disorders. Each guideline is accompanied by a bibliography. The guidelines were “developed by active clinicians and extensively reviewed.”

Contains shortened versions of the full practice guidelines created by the APA. Slim book, just under 200 pages.

Ashford, J., Sales, B. and Reid, W.,(Eds.),(2003), Treating Adult and Juvenile Offenders with Special Needs, American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
Excellent overview for practitioners and program planners responsible for treating offenders with special mental and behavioral needs. Editors have chosen authors from different
disciplines who work with special needs offenders, and are themselves, respectively, a sociologist, psychologist and psychiatrist. Dr Sales, on receiving an honorary doctorate from the City University of New York in 1999, was described as “the father of academic forensic psychology”.


Caballo, V. (Ed.), (1998), International Handbook of Cognitive and Behavioural Treatments for Psychological Disorders, Pergamon, New York. Chapters on specific disorders. Of particular relevance are the chapters on posttraumatic stress disorder, sexual offenders (paraphilias), and impulse control disorders.

Cordess, C. and Murray Cox, M. (Eds.), (1996), Forensic Psychotherapy: Crime, Psychodynamics and the Offender Patient, J. Kingsley, Bristol, PA. Two volume work, with the first volume entitled Mainly Theory and the second Mainly Practice, covering the provision of non-physiological therapeutic treatment to criminal offenders, both inside correctional facilities and in the community. Most of the authors are based in the United Kingdom, providing us with an alternative perspective. Discussions of art therapy and other creative therapies are included.


Written by correctional mental health practitioners, this single volume work attempts to introduce students and practitioners to the challenges and rewards of working in prisons and other correctional institutions. Readable and practical in approach, while still research based.

Hollin, C. (Ed.), (2001), Handbook of Offender Assessment and Treatment, Wiley, New York. The authors are based mainly in the United Kingdom and North America. Each of the relatively short chapters reviews the literature and provides extensive bibliographies. There are 5 sections; the first, called context setting, covers the historical empirical and financial perspectives. The 2nd focuses on risk assessment; the 3rd, approaches to treatment; the 4th, offender assessment and treatment; the 5th consist of short descriptions of providing treatment in specific settings, including juvenile residences, maximum security institutions
and in the community. This is probably best suited to advanced students, and validly claims to be “authoritative, comprehensive and international”.

Landsberg, G. and Smiley, A. (2001). Forensic Mental Health: Working With Offenders with Mental Illness, Civic Research Institute, Kingston, NJ. The authors describe and discuss mental health services for incarcerated offenders in the United States and the United Kingdom. They describe actual programs and services in operation, including for example the Central New York Psychiatric Center, and also community intervention programs.


**Juvenile forensic psychology resources**

Children are inherently different from adults, and are treated differently by the legal system. *The California School of Professional Psychology Handbook of Juvenile Forensic Psychology* (Ribner, 2002) provides a useful introduction and overview of the relevant areas. Juvenile forensic psychology encompasses both civil and criminal proceedings. Children become involved with the legal system not just as offenders, but as victims in abuse cases, and as subjects of custody hearings following family break-ups. Both Ribner’s *The California School of Professional Psychology Handbook of Juvenile Forensic Psychology* (2002) and Schetky and Benedek’s *Principles and practice of child and adolescent forensic psychiatry* (2002) provide excellent overviews of the different aspects of this area. Psychologists have been evaluating juveniles for the courts for over a century. Grisso (1998) has compiled a short work describing the psychological instruments available for evaluating children. Damon (1998) is a good general child psychology resource, and Ollendick and Hersen (1998) and Walker and Roberts (2001) are good reference sources for abnormal child psychology.

**Bibliography**

This academic work identifies and discusses social forces which undermine the normal development of children and adolescents, including poverty, violence and crime, and offers suggestions as to how these problems can be addressed in community settings. It is written by and for clinical psychologists, researchers and others working with children and adolescents. Extensive bibliographies are included. Chapters of particular interest to forensic psychologists address conduct disorders, sexual abuse, child abuse, and substance abuse.

This is the classic reference work on human psychological development, first published in 1931 and having undergone considerable evolution since.

A systematic, short, practical guide to forensic evaluation of juveniles. Includes assessing juveniles for dangerousness, waiver to criminal (adult) court, and competency to stand trial.

Cross disciplinary compilation written by representatives of the insurance industry and public safety professions as well as by psychologists. A useful overview which emphasizes prevention and education.

Good source for overviews of common psychological disorders in children. Chapters on child maltreatment, conduct disorders, and prevention and treatment should be of interest to forensic psychology students. Authoritative but not too technical for undergraduate students.

A useful text and reference source written with both lawyers and psychologists (and students of those disciplines) in mind. Unfortunately not the juvenile equivalent of the impressive Blugrass and Bowden’s Principles and Practice of Forensic Psychiatry or Wiener and Hess’ Handbook of Forensic Psychology, but none the less an essential addition to the forensic psychology library.

Covers the interaction of children, crime and the legal system. Children are discussed as perpetrators and victims of violence, as witnesses, and as subjects of custody decisions. Most of the authors are psychologists or psychiatrists, who take a clinical approach to the subject matter. Notable chapters cover youth violence prevention, child custody evaluations, waivers to adult court, competency and criminal responsibility assessment and Munchausen-by-proxy syndrome. Can be used as a class text or reference book.
This comprehensive work was described by one reviewer as “the bible for clinical child psychologists”. Written for a readership composed of clinicians, researchers and graduate students.

Contains excellent reviews of what is known and relevant to children testifying in court. Includes memory, suggestibility, deception, cognitive issues, practice guidelines, and theoretical/philosophical discussions of children as witnesses.

Workgroup on Psychiatric Practice in the Juvenile Court of the American Psychiatric Association, (1992), Handbook of Psychiatric Practice in the Juvenile Court, American Psychiatric Association, Washington, DC.
This relatively short (200 page) practical introduction to juvenile courts was written by an interdisciplinary task force assembled by the American Psychiatric Association, Although now over a decade old and written for psychiatrists, it is still a useful resource for psychologists and students unfamiliar with the juvenile legal system. Chapters include an overview of the history and procedures of United Sates juvenile courts as well as testifying in court and evaluating clients.

Special topics: Sex offenders

Awareness of sexual offending has increased in recent years, particularly abuse perpetrated by individuals in positions of trust, such as teachers and clergy. Schwartz and Cellini (1995) point out that given the high prevalence of sex offending, and the high numbers of victims who become abusers, preventing abuse and treating abusers is vitally important. Schwartz and Cellini (1995) provide the most comprehensive general review of the issues involved. Prentky and Burgess (2000) review recent research on managing offenders, while Marshall et al identify treatment programs in different settings. Revitch and Schlesinger (1989) focus more narrowly on the rarer sexually motivated murder of women.

Bibliography

The authors are clinicians and therapists working with sex offenders. The work is international in scope, and is divided into 3 sections, covering respectively, treatment programs involving adult male offenders (in prison, community and psychiatric settings); diverse populations (including clergy and professionals); and ethnic populations.

Reviews what is known about sexual offenders and available treatments. Includes a section on theories of sexual assault. Most of the authors are clinicians.
A loose-leaf legal treatise, covering current law. One section covers community notification laws (Megan’s laws), a popular topic at the reference desk.

Relatively short work reviewing two decades of research in this area, aiming to define what is known and not-known in this area. Includes 35 pages of references. Written by a forensic psychologist and forensic nurse.

This short work describes, analyses and classifies sexually motivated gynocide. Includes case studies.

In four volumes, this comprehensive work was published over a seven year period. The four volumes cover, respectively, Corrections, treatment, and legal practice, New insights, treatment innovations, and legal developments, Theoretical advances, treating special populations, and legal developments, and Current treatment modalities and systems issues. The work reviews research and techniques, and is aimed at professionals working with sex offenders. Probably the single best reference work in this area. Includes bibliographies.

The deviation in the title refers to criminal deviation, and the subject under consideration is sex offenders. This work is scholarly and thorough, written by authors working with sex offenders all over the English speaking world. The first part of the book attempts to explain sexual deviance, while the second considers responses to the problem.

Special topics: Substance abuse

The literature on substance abuse is so extensive that no attempt will be made to address it here. However, any forensic psychology collection should include some materials in this area, and the empirically-based Sourcebook on substance abuse (Ott, Tarter and Ammerman, 1999) would be a good initial purchase. It is authoritative, and each chapter includes lengthy references. Substance abuse treatment for criminal offenders (Springer, Mcneece and Arnold, 2003) addresses treatment options for offenders.

Bibliography

Ott, P., Tarter, R. and Ammerman, R., (Eds.),(1999), Sourcebook on Substance Abuse: Etiology, Epidemiology, Assessment, and Treatment, Allyn & Bacon, Boston, MA.
Notes that “40% of all U.S. crimes have substance abuse as a contributing factor”.
A useful single volume work, aiming to be an “empirically based and clinically sound”
reference source. Academic and thorough, written by psychologists and psychiatrists.
Almost half the book is concerned with treatments.

Springer, D., McNeece, C. and Arnold, E., (2003), Substance Abuse Treatment for Criminal
Offenders: An Evidence-Based Guide for Practitioners, American Psychological
Association Washington, DC.
Reviews current treatments and their effectiveness, with an extensive bibliography at the end
of the book. Covers treatment options for both adult and juvenile offenders.

Library of Congress subject headings

We have found that providing students with lists of subject headings can help them create
successful searching strategies for the library catalog. Some useful Library of Congress
subject headings relating to forensic psychology topics are as follows:

Child psychopathology
Competency to stand trial
Criminal anthropology
Criminal behavior
Criminal liability
Criminal psychology
Deviant behavior
Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders
Ethnopsychology
Eyewitness identification
Evidence expert
Forensic psychiatry
Indecent assault
Indecent exposure
Insanity--jurisprudence
Jury
Jury selection
Juvenile delinquents--United States--psychology
Law--psychological aspects
Medical jurisprudence
Mental health laws
Prisoner--mental health
Psychiatry transcultural
Psychological tests
Psychology forensic
Psychology forensic--periodicals
Psychology pathological
Rape Rape--periodicals
Sex crimes
Sex offender--psychology
Journals

Articles on forensic psychology tend to be published either in the broad-scope psychology journals, or in specialized forensic psychology journals. The latter, unknown three decades ago, have been increasing in number. The two oldest and most eminent U.S. journals devoted entirely to forensic psychology started publishing during the seventies; *Law and human behavior* (published by the American Psychology-Law Society, now division 41 of the APA) and *Criminal justice and behavior* (American Association of Correctional Psychologists). The *American journal of forensic psychology, Behavioral sciences and the law, Journal of family violence, Journal of interpersonal violence, Journal of police and criminal psychology, and Sexual abuse* appeared the following decade. The expansion continued during the nineties, with the appearance of *Law and psychology review, Criminal behaviour and mental health, Journal of child sexual abuse, Journal of forensic neuropsychology, Legal and criminological psychology, Psychiatry psychology and law, Psychology crime and law*, and *Psychology public policy and law*. Meanwhile, psychiatrists were turning their attention to legal issues, and developing their own journals. In 1957, the Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders started publishing what was essentially a newsletter but later developed into a peer-reviewed journal—the *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*. In the late seventies, the *American journal of forensic psychiatry* and the *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and law* began, covering U.S. issues, while the *International journal of law and psychiatry* concentrated on non-U.S. practices. The *Journal of forensic psychiatry* appeared during the nineties.

Table 1 lists journals in forensic psychology and related areas. Using a subjective judgment based on editorial scope statements and actual content of recent issues, I have identified 25 journal titles that appear to focus entirely or largely upon forensic psychology issues. These are labeled as “core” journals in the table. An additional 15 titles, labeled non-core, cover forensic and related issues often enough to be considered as useful additions to a forensic psychology library. The ISI impact factors for 2002 and rejection rates have been noted, where available. Rejection rates were taken from the American Psychological Association’s *Journals in psychology: a resource listing for authors* (1997), and, for those titles not listed in that publication, from Wang’s *Author’s guide to journals in the behavioral sciences* (1989).

In addition, some titles have been given a relative ranking (scored out of 85) according to the percentage of articles written by most-cited criminal justice or criminology scholars (Cohn, Farrington and Wright, 1998). The rankers were looking at criminologists not psychologists; none the less, the rankings are still of interest. Only ten of the journals listed in table 1 were ranked by Cohn, Farrington and Wright among their 85 criminal justice journals. Of these ten, *Criminal justice and behavior* was given the highest rank, at 35 out of 85. *Law and human behavior* was ranked at zero (along with 35 other journals, none of which published any articles by criminal justice luminaries). This cannot be considered as indicative of the prestige of the journal among psychologists, as the authors considered only articles written by those criminal justice researchers considered as luminaries, and not psychologists. But it
is interesting to note that despite this non-consideration of psychology, 6 of the core forensic psychology journals earned ratings above zero. The *Journal of family violence*, the *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology* and the *Journal of offender rehabilitation*, in that order, were ranked highest of the forensic psychology journals on Cohn, Farrington and Wright’s list.

Rejection rates and impact factors are considered as indicative of the perceived value of a journal within the research community. High rejection rates and high impact factors tend to go together. An impact factor is a measure, published by the ISI, of the frequency with which a journal’s articles have been cited over the prior two years, divided by the number of articles published in that journal during those two years. A longitudinal analysis of behavioral psychology journals found that impact factors and other citation factors remained fairly constant over a 20 year period (Carr and Britton, 2003). Psychology journals generally have high rejection rates. Rejection rates and citation indices for psychology journals broad in scope are significantly higher than for those focusing on specialized areas (Rotton, Levitt and Foos, 1993). The rejection rates and impact factors for the forensic psychology journals show a similar pattern – the broad-scope non-core journals such as the *Archives of general psychology* have higher impact factors and rejection rates than the core titles. The core titles with the highest impact factors and rejection rates are *Law and human behavior* (published by the American Psychology-Law Society division of the APA) and *Criminal justice and behavior* (American Association of Correctional Psychologists). Impact factors for core journals in personality and social psychology score less than 1 (McGarty, 2000); similarly, most of our core forensic psychology journals that have been given impact factors by ISI also score less than one. This low score presumably reflects at least in part the degree of specialization of the content, and appears typical for this type of publication.

If impact factors and rejection rates really are indicative of a journal’s value to its field, *Law and human behavior* and *Criminal justice and behavior* are clearly the top specialized forensic psychology journals.

Take in table 1.

**Table caption:**
Journals in forensic psychology and related areas.

**Table key:**
Impact Factor was taken from ISI. Journal Citation Reports Social Sciences Edition. 2002.


Cohn, Ellen G., Farrington, David P. and Wright, Richard A. (1998). Who lands the luminaries? Rating the prestige of criminology and criminal justice journals through an

Scope indicates whether or not the journal concentrates entirely on forensic psychology (core) or includes other topics as well (non-core).

**Literature indexes**

Given the interdisciplinary nature of forensic psychology, no single literature index sufficiently covers all of the relevant materials. However, the American Psychological Association’s Psychological Abstracts (print version) or the electronic PsycINFO/PsycLIT (name varies according to the vendor) is the most important index for searching psychology literature, and will identify the articles on forensic topics published in psychology journals. PsycINFO/PsycLIT has what is probably the most sophisticated search interface of any bibliographic database available today, and gives the searcher great control over the search. Searches in PsycINFO/PsycLIT can be narrowed by classification code. Each record in the database is described with a classification code which identifies the broad subject matter of the work. The classification codes for forensic psychology are as follows:

4200 Forensic Psychology & Legal Issues  
4210 Civil Rights & Civil Law  
4230 Criminal Law & Criminal Adjudication  
4250 Mediation & Conflict Resolution  
4270 Crime Prevention  
4290 Police & Legal Personnel

Each record is described with subject headings. The controlled vocabulary used as subject headings by APA indexers is published in the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*. Now in its 9th edition, this publication lists the subject headings used in PsycINFO/PsycLIT and the print equivalent Psychological Abstracts.

PsycINFO/PsycLIT indexes articles from psychology journals from 1887 to the present, and more recently, books and book-chapters. A useful accompaniment is the APA produced PsycARTICLES database, which is a full text database of APA published journals. The search interface of PsycARTICLES is unsophisticated, so the best way of using it is to set up the two databases in such a way that the records in PsycINFO/PsycLIT link directly to the full text in PsycARTICLES.

National Library of Medicine’s Medline index to articles in medical journals includes psychiatric and some psychological journals. Access via the PubMed interface is free on the web at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/) or access via other interfaces can be purchased through vendors such as EBSCO.
The two major legal databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis provide access to the full text of law review articles, but unfortunately do not index them using a controlled vocabulary of subject headings. Hein Online is a full text database of 200 law periodicals from their first volumes to the present, but again, does not index the articles. H.W. Wilson’s *Index to Legal Periodicals and Books* (1983 to present) indexes selected periodicals and books, and is available in print and electronic form.

Criminology journals can be searched using Criminal Justice Abstracts (electronic and print versions available). The major criminology journals are also indexed by Sociological Abstracts (electronic and print versions available). Gray literature is best approached using the National Criminal Justice Reference Service abstracts database, available free on the web at http://abstractsdb.ncjrs.org/.

**Bibliography**


**Electronic books and internet sites**

A very few forensic psychology books are available in electronic format. NetLibrary reproduces a few titles, and CRC Press publishes its own forensic psychology titles in electronic form, which can be acquired through subscription and accessed using the world wide web. Available titles can be seen at www.netlibrary.com and www.forensicnetbase.com respectively. The American Psychiatric Association has digitized some of its publications, including the DSM-IV-tr, as has the American Psychological Association. Current information on electronic title availability can be seen on their web sites at www.psych.org and www.apa.org respectively.

The Buros Institute’s Mental Measurements Yearbook and HaPI (Health and Psychosocial Instruments, available through the vendor Ovid) are indexes to psychological testing instruments. The former identifies commercially available tests, the latter covers both commercial and non-commercial tests. Coverage of both is not specific to forensic psychology. Information about them is available at http://buros.unl.edu/buros/ and www.ovid.com.

**Forensic Psychology web sites**

American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law has a page at www.emory.edu/AAPL/ which includes an index to the Academy’s journal and the full text of articles from back issues of its newsletter. The Canadian Academy of Psychiatry and Law maintains a page at www.capnet.org.

The American Academy of Forensic Psychology site at www.abfp.com provides information about training and careers in forensic psychology.

The APA’s division #41 is devoted to forensic psychology, and entitled American Psychology-Law Society. The Society’s web page can be accessed at www.apa.org/about/division/div41.html

Dr. Robert D. Hare, creator of Hare’s Psychopathy Checklist, maintains a web site detailing his research at www.hare.org

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice is at www.ncmhjj.com

References


