

Guide to the Robert B. Fetter Papers

MS 1496



compiled by Jay Garcia

July 1998

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1496

CREATOR: Fetter, Robert B.

TITLE: Robert Barclay Fetter papers

DATES: 1978-1989

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.75 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, and itineraries which document the professional activities of Robert B. Fetter, especially throughout the 1980s. Many of the materials relate to Fetter's expertise in the field of health care management, and particularly to his innovations and work concerning Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs). The papers include some files pertaining to Fetter's responsibilities within the Yale University School of Organization and Management.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1496>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1496>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert B. Fetter, 1989.

Conditions Governing Access

This materials are mainly open for research, with some exceptions. Series I, boxes 1-2, is closed until 2009. Series III, box 8, is closed until 2007. Materials contained in Series V, box 10 is restricted until January 1, 2063 as established by [Yale Corporation regulations](#).

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Robert Barclay Fetter Papers (MS 1496). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Barclay Fetter was born in Berwyn, Illinois, in 1924. In 1947, he was awarded a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Afterward, he went on to receive both an M.B.A. and a D.B.A. from Indiana University, in 1949 and 1952, respectively. From 1953 to 1958 Fetter worked as an assistant professor of industrial management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1958, Fetter arrived at Yale University as an associate professor of industrial management, the first of a series of faculty and administrative posts he would assume at the university, including the Harold J. Hines, Jr. professorship in health care management and the chairmanship of the Yale University School of Organization and Management.

The professional accomplishment for which Fetter is most widely known is the development of Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs), a conceptual framework which helps to define the "products" of a hospital. The DRG system identifies these products based on the characteristics of patients receiving comparable services. For Fetter, DRGs held the possibility of improving cost accounting, budgeting, and quality controls in hospitals. The application of DRGs in the United States, including their use as the basis of Medicare claims, led to international demand for more knowledge about their possibilities for hospitals in other parts of the world. Fetter's expertise in the development of DRGs regularly took him to meetings and conferences in different countries.

Fetter retired from the faculty at Yale in 1989.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, writings, and itineraries which document the professional activities of Robert B. Fetter, especially throughout the 1980s. Many of the materials relate to Fetter's expertise in the field of health care management, and particularly to his innovations and work concerning Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs). The papers include some files pertaining to Fetter's responsibilities within the Yale University School of Organization and Management. Forms part of the Contemporary Medical Care and Health Policy Collection.

Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence, 1982-1989. II. Conferences and Workshops, 1978-1989. III. Yale University School of Organization and Management (SOM) Files, 1983-1986. IV. General Files, 1981-1989.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1982-1989

Correspondence is organized chronologically and documents the Yale School of Organization and Management, Fetter’s travel plans, meetings, reports, publications and some personal finance. Both directly and indirectly, much of the correspondence concerns Fetter’s research on Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs). There is some correspondence between Fetter and researchers and faculty at other institutions about his work. In addition, there are evaluations and comments by Fetter regarding articles written by others and submitted to journals for possible publication. Some of the letters also describe Fetter’s association with the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, as well as the Health Systems Management Group that existed for a time within the Yale School of Organization and Management.

The materials are open for research.

b. 1, f. 1-14	Correspondence	1982 May-1986 March
b. 2, f. 15-29	Correspondence	1986 April-1989 March, undated

Series II: Conference and Workshop Files, 1978-1988

The conference and workshop files are arranged alphabetically by the institution primarily responsible for the meeting. They mostly contain materials relating to formal discussions and presentations on Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) and other aspects of hospital management. The files include Fetter's notes, outlines, and presentation materials. Pamphlets and brochures from the institutions themselves are often included as well.

b. 3, f. 1-8	Academy of Management	1980-1988
b. 3, f. 9	Alpha Bates	1984
b. 3, f. 10	Ambulatory Visits Group (AVG)	1989
b. 3, f. 11	American Association for Medical Systems and Informatics, Computer Applications in Medical Care (SCAMC)	1983
b. 3, f. 12	American Association of Professional Standards Review Organizations	1980
b. 3, f. 13	American College of Physicians	1986
b. 3, f. 14	American Convertors	1984
b. 3, f. 15	American Federation of Clinical Research	1984
b. 3, f. 16-19	American Hospital Association (AHA)	1984-1986
b. 4, f. 20-24	American Institute for Decision Sciences (AIDS)	1979-1984
b. 4, f. 25	American Institute of Industrial Engineers. Health Services Division (AIIE-HSD)	1982
b. 4, f. 26	American Medical Review Research Center	1987
b. 4, f. 27	American Society of Mechanical Engineers	1980
b. 4, f. 28	Arizona State University	1982
b. 4, f. 29-30	Association of American Medical Colleges	1980, 1987
b. 4, f. 31	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Dakota	1984
	Brandeis University	
b. 4, f. 32	Ambulatory Care Project	1984
b. 4, f. 33	Health Policy Center Seminar	1984
b. 4, f. 34	Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School	1983
b. 4, f. 35	Daughters of Charity (Dallas, TX)	1983
b. 4, f. 36	Downey Community Hospital	1984
b. 4, f. 37	Escuela de Alta Direccion y Administracion	1987
	European Conference on Operations Research	
b. 5, f. 38	EURO V	1982 July

European Conference on Operations Research (continued)

b. 5, f. 39	EURO VI	1983 July
b. 4, f. 40	European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management	1981
b. 4, f. 41	French Ministry of Social Affairs/ Congress of Portuguese Hospital Administrators	1985
b. 4, f. 42	Greater New York Hospital Association	1986
b. 4, f. 43	Group Health Association of America	1980
b. 4, f. 44-45	Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences	1983, 1986
b. 4, f. 46	Health Care Financing Administration, Health and Human Services	1983
b. 4, f. 47	Health Data Management Association (HDM)	1986
	Healthcare Financial Management Association	
b. 4, f. 48	Eastern Michigan Chapter	1984
b. 4, f. 49	Maryland Chapter	1983
b. 4, f. 50	Northeastern New York Chapter	1985
b. 4, f. 51	Henry Ford Hospital [Detroit, MI]	1984
b. 5, f. 52	Hippocrate 2001	1985
b. 5, f. 53	Hospital Council of Eastern Pennsylvania	1983
b. 5, f. 54	Indiana State Medical Group Management Association	1987
b. 5, f. 55	Institute of Industrial Engineers, Hospital Management Systems Society	1987
	Institute of Management Sciences (TIMS)	
b. 5, f. 56	XXVI Conference	1984 June
b. 5, f. 57	XXVII Conference	1986 July
b. 5, f. 58-59	International Conference on System Science in Health Care	1984, 1986
b. 5, f. 60	International Economics of Health Care	1983
b. 6, f. 61	International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)	1988
b. 6, f. 62	Management Services for Health	1984
b. 6, f. 63-64	Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)	1985-1986
b. 6, f. 65	Mercy Hospital [Urbana-Champaign, IL]	1983
b. 6, f. 66	Mercy Hospital [Portland, ME]	1983
b. 6, f. 67	Metropolitan Clinical Laboratories Ltd. [Vancouver, B.C.]	1986
b. 6, f. 68-69	National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)	1980, 1983
b. 6, f. 70	National City Corporation [Cleveland, OH]	1985

b. 6, f. 71	National Conference on Data Base Information Systems	1982
b. 6, f. 72	National Institute of Mental Health	1980
b. 6, f. 73	National Medical Enterprises	1984
b. 6, f. 74	New Jersey, State Department of Health	1983
b. 6, f. 75	Northwestern University	1985
	Operations Research Society of America/ The Institute of Management Sciences (ORSA/TIMS), Visiting Lecturer's Program	
b. 7, f. 76-80	General	1978-1981, 1987
	Visiting Lecturer's Program	
b. 7, f. 81	State University of New York at Albany	1982
b. 7, f. 82	University of Alabama at Birmingham	1986
b. 7, f. 83	Pfizer Presidents Forum [Carlsbad, CA]	1983
b. 7, f. 84	Providence Hospital [Anchorage, AK]	1983
b. 7, f. 85	Schering-Plough Conference	1985
b. 7, f. 86	Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth	1983
b. 7, f. 87	Sisters of Providence, Seattle	1983
b. 7, f. 88	Society for Computer Medicine	1979
b. 7, f. 89	Society for Hospital Planning, American Hospital Association	1980
b. 7, f. 90	St. Mary's Hospital [Rochester, MN]	1986
b. 7, f. 91	Travenol Laboratories Ltd.	1984
b. 7, f. 92	Tri-State Hospital Association	1982
b. 7, f. 93	University of Colorado. College of Business and Administration and Graduate School of Business Administration	1983
b. 7, f. 94	University of Illinois at Chicago. Hospital and Clinics, Hospital Management	1983
b. 7, f. 95	University of Michigan. Medical Center	1986
b. 7, f. 96	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. School of Public Health	1988
b. 7, f. 97	Veterans Administration. Department of Medicine and Surgery	1987
b. 7, f. 98	William Beaumont Hospital [Royal Oak, MI]	1982
b. 7, f. 99	World Association for Medical Informatics	1979

Series III: Yale University School of Organization and Management Files, 1983-1986

Arranged alphabetically by topic, most of these files relate to Fetter's work as a faculty member of the Yale University School of Organization and Management (SOM). The folder on Fetter's leave of absence documents some of his professional activities abroad. The files refer to SOM more in general terms than they do to Fetter's involvement in the school. The files are restricted until 2007.

The materials are open for research.

b. 8, f. 1	Budget committee	1986
b. 8, f. 2-3	Computer committee	1983-1985
	Faculty evaluations See: Restricted, Box 10, Folder 1	
b. 8, f. 4	Leave of absence	1983-1985
b. 8, f. 5	Program in Hospital Administration, Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) Conference	1983
	Student evaluations See: Restricted, Box 10, Folder 2 See:	
b. 8, f. 6	Yale University Hospital Administration Alumni Association (YUHAAA)	1983

Series IV: General Files, 1981-1989

General Files document some of Robert Fetter's professional activities other than formal conferences and workshops. The first folder, "Biographical," holds a curriculum vita which lists all of Fetter's major publications, from 1951 to 1988. The "Interviews" folders do not hold transcripts of Fetter's television appearances, but the "Your Practice" folder contains a working script and set of questions for the program that featured Fetter.

b. 9, f. 1	Biographical	1989
b. 9, f. 2	Central Connecticut State College [accreditation evaluation]	1981-1982
b. 9, f. 3	French language course	1983
	Interviews	
b. 9, f. 4	<i>Healthcost Journal</i> [television interview] English	1987
b. 9, f. 5	<i>Your Practice</i> [television interview on MDTV]	1984

Series V: Restricted, 1982-1988

Materials contained in this box is restricted until January 1, 2063 as established by [Yale Corporation regulations](#).

b. 10, f. 1	Faculty evaluations Open 2063 Jan
b. 10, f. 2	Student evaluations Open 2063 Jan

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Diagnosis related groups
Health planning
Health services administration
Medical care

Names

Fetter, Robert B.

Corporate Body

Yale University. School of Management