Authorship in Sport Psychology:
A Reference List

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As one scholar recently commented, “We are only as good as our research” (A. Perlman, personal communication, September, 1993). Though many factors contribute to a discipline becoming legitimized in academia, an accurate way to trace the development of a discipline is to examine the published research and authorship patterns throughout its history. Sport psychology is no exception. Though a relatively new discipline, sport psychology has roots as far back as the 1920s, with Coleman Griffith’s unprecedented work on psychology and athletics at the University of Illinois. The major body of research, however, began appearing in the 1970s, and continues at a strong pace to the present.

The purpose of the following reading list is twofold: (a) to make available a comprehensive reference list for researchers and teachers, and (b) to trace the historical record of publication in sport psychology with a view to the role of authorship in the development of the discipline. The list includes monographs devoted to the psychology of sport. It is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, while excluding those works that are devoted exclusively to applied sport psychology and those that deal more with sport sociology than psychology. This list is divided into two parts: Edited Books and Authored Books. Each section is arranged chronologically by decade to emphasize the development of the discipline through published books. Also included are several important reference works and published conference proceedings.

The sport psychology reading list is drawn primarily from the collection of the Applied Life Studies Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana, which seems only fitting considering that the University’s own Coleman Griffith pioneered the discipline. Griffith would be proud to know that Illinois has a distinct library devoted to sport science and other aspects of health and human performance and that the record of scholarly research in sport psychology is available here, where the discipline began.

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Edited Books

1970s


1980s


