POLICE DISCRETION: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This bibliography is based on a broad interpretation of the concept of police discretion. Included are descriptions and analyses of varieties of police encounters, various stages of the criminal justice process requiring police decisionmaking, factors and extenuating circumstances that affect judgmental decisions, and methods of rulemaking that place limits on police discretion. Few titles prior to 1970 are included because little was written on this topic before the early 1970's.

"The Concept in General" contains titles that define and discuss the phenomenon of police discretion. This is followed by items that describe "Influential Factors" which contribute to police discretionary judgment. Such factors include departmental resource allocation and priorities, personal background of the officer and effects of training experiences, suspect and victim characteristics, time and place of the situation, legal dimensions, community sentiment, and environmental factors. "Criminal Justice Field Procedures" which require discretion include the decision to arrest, use of surveillance, investigation and search procedures, and disposition of the offender. "Substantive Problems" which are encountered daily by police are as diverse as traffic enforcement, drug abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, drunkenness, and dealing with juveniles. The bibliography concludes with titles that examine the methods of structuring police discretion. Departmental policies, judicial review, legislation, and citizen involvement are all factors contributing to the definition and control of police discretion. Although this list is selective, it attempts to provide researchers with a comprehensive range of materials covering a controversial and very timely topic.

Most of the titles listed are available in the Criminal Justice Reference and Information Center and the Law Library at the University of Wisconsin Law School. The Criminal Justice Reference and Information Center, a specialized collection within the Law Library, contains operational, theoretical, statistical, and research materials on all aspects of criminal justice. Areas of emphasis include law enforcement, corrections, and juvenile justice. The Center has 29,000 volumes and receives 250 current periodicals. Unique materials include the penal press (inmate newspapers) and criminal justice agency annual and statistical reports from throughout the United States. Indepth subject analysis of each newly acquired item permits specialized access to topics such as police discretion, teenage prostitution, victim/witness assistance programs, and community service sentencing. The collection is open to

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THE CONCEPT IN GENERAL: RECOGNITION AND DESCRIPTION

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^{1.} Additional information on the Center and its use may be obtained by contacting the author at the University of Wisconsin Law Library, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, telephone (608) 262-1499.

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