



Guide to the Consumer Reports. Consumers Union Foundation records, 1938-1991

This collection guide was produced in **Sept. 2019**.
This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

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Summary

Collection Title:

Consumer Reports. Consumers Union Foundation records, 1938-1991

Creator:

Consumer Reports (Firm)

Abstract:

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936. Consumers Union Foundation was established in 1971 as a nonprofit focused on fundraising and promotion of consumer-based research projects. The Consumers Union Foundation (CUF) records include correspondence, direct mail examples, financial statements and reports, grants and internships, meeting minutes, project notes and reports, research reports and other printed materials. The collection also includes materials relating to an oral history project on people active in the consumer movement, and notes and drafts for a history of the Consumers Union. Organizations represented include the Consumer Interests Foundation (precursor to the CUF), the Center for the Study of Consumer Movements research center, and the Consumer Policy Institute (and its predecessor the Institute for Consumer Policy Research), a subsidiary of Consumers Union. Acquired as part of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History.

Extent:

10.0 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11856

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10q75>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Consumer Reports. Consumers Union Foundation records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Consumers Union Foundation (CUF) records include correspondence, direct mail examples, financial statements and reports, grants and internships, meeting minutes, project notes and reports, research reports and other printed materials. The collection also includes materials relating to an oral history project on people active in the consumer movement, and notes and drafts for a history of the Consumers Union. Organizations represented include the Consumer Interests Foundation (precursor to the CUF), the Center for the Study of Consumer Movements research center, and the Consumer Policy Institute (and its predecessor the Institute for Consumer Policy Research), a subsidiary of Consumers Union.

Biographical/Historical

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936. Consumers Union Foundation was established in 1971 as a nonprofit focused on fundraising and promotion of consumer-based research projects. The Consumer Interests Foundation was established in 1971 to promote research into consumer interests (such as consumer education, the environment, healthcare, housing, poverty) not related to product testing. It was renamed as Consumers Union Foundation in 1975. A research center, the Center for the Study of Consumer Movements was established in 1972 with a NEH grant and other funding. In 1979 Consumers Union created a subsidiary, the Institute for Consumer Policy Research, to promote research and advocacy on policy-based consumer interests. It was renamed the Consumer Policy Institute in 1990.

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: General and Administrative Files; Consumer Interests Foundaton; Center for the Study of Consumer Movements; Consumer Policy Institute

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Consumer Reports. Consumers Union Foundation records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2019.

Processing Information

Processed by Richard Collier, Sept. 2020;

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2019-0130.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Related materials may be found in the following Hartman Center collections:

Consumer Reports Archives records;
Consumer Reports. Advocacy records;
Consumer Reports. Washington Office records;
Consumer Reports. Colston E. Warne papers;
Consumer Reports. Eileen Nic papers

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Names and Subjects

- Consumer education
- Consumer advocacy
- consumer protection
- Consumer Interests Foundation
- Consumers Union Foundation
- Consumers Union Foundation. Center for the Study of the Consumer Movement
- Institute for Consumer Policy Research
- Consumer Policy Institute

Collection Inventory

General and Administrative Files, 1973-1985

| | |
|--|--------|
| Advance Notice newsletter, 1982 | Box 1 |
| Advance Notice/Alert newsletter, 1981-1983 | Box 22 |
| Annual Meeting, 1978-1980 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 1 |
| Balance sheets, 1982 | Box 1 |
| Board of Trustees, 1973-1981 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 1 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Board of Trustees, 1982 | Box 22 |
| Bylaws, Certificate of Incorporation, 1983-1984 | Box 1 |
| Consumer Education Resource Network (CERN), 1982 | Box 1 |
| Contribution acknowledgements, 1982-1985 | Box 1 |
| Correspondence, memos, 1975-1982 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 1 |
| Correspondence, memos, 1983-1984 | Box 2 |
| Council of Better Business Bureaus, 1983-1985 | Box 2 |
| Direct mailings, approximately 1983 | Box 2 |
| Fact sheet, approximately 1980 | Box 22 |
| Financial statements, 1978-1984 Physical Description: 6 folders | Box 2 |
| Financial statements, 1980-1984 | Box 22 |
| Financial statements, first quarter FY1984, 1983 | Oversize-folder 2 |
| Foundation funding, 1984 | Box 2 |
| Management, 1980-1984 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 2 |
| Meetings, 1977-1978 | Box 2 |
| Meetings, 1979-1981 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 3 |
| Meetings, 1979-1984 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 22 |
| Minutes, 1976-1981 | Box 3 |
| Persia Campbell: Portrait of a Consumer Activist, 1980-1981 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 3 |

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|--------------------------------|-------|
| Promotional packets, 1981-1985 | Box 3 |
| Tax information, grants, 1982 | Box 3 |

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Consumer Interests Foundation, 1971-1981

| | |
|--|--------|
| Automobile advertising substantiation, 1972-1973 Physical Description: 6 folders | Box 3 |
| Automobile advertising substantiation, 1972-1974 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 4 |
| Automobile advertising substantiation, 1973 | Box 21 |
| Automobile emissions, 1972-1973 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 4 |
| Board of Directors, 1971-1973 Physical Description: 5 folders | Box 4 |
| Board of Trustees, 1972-1973 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 5 |
| Bylaws, Certificate of Incorporation, 1971-1973 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 5 |
| Certificate of Incorporation, 1971-1972 | Box 21 |
| Correspondence--Edward Vitello, 1971 | Box 5 |
| Correspondence, memos, 1971-1975 Physical Description: 4 folders | Box 5 |
| Document binder, 1972 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 5 |
| Donations, 1972-1973 | Box 5 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Environment--Do Citizen Suits Overburden Our Courts?, 1973 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 6 |
| Environment--Do Citizen Suits Overburden Our Courts?, 1973 | Box 21 |
| Executive Committee, 1972-1973 Physical Description: 4 folders | Box 6 |
| Financial reports, 1973 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 6 |
| Management letter, 1974 | Box 6 |
| Minutes, 1971-1972 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 6 |
| Minutes, 1972-1981 Physical Description: 3 folders | Box 7 |
| Reports, 1972 | Box 7 |

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Center for the Study of Consumer Movements (CSCM), 1938-1988

General and Administrative Files, 1952-1988

| | |
|---|--------|
| A Guide to Documents of the Consumer Movement, 1980 | Box 7 |
| Accessions: Books and other materials, 1973-1977 | Box 7 |
| Acquisitions: Films, publications, theses, tapes, 1973-1975 | Box 7 |
| Advisory Committee, 1975-1979 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 7 |
| Alan Goodman, 1972-1974 | Box 7 |
| Alan Goodman, 1972-1974 | Box 21 |

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|---|--------|
| Annual and Interim Reports, 1974-1979 | Box 8 |
| Brochures, newsletters, 1979 | Box 8 |
| Consultants--Archival work, 1973-1974 | Box 8 |
| Consultants--Ronald Grele, 1973 | Box 21 |
| Consumer Library, 1978-1980 | Box 7 |
| Consumers Union history--Source materials (Eirlys Roberts), 1966 | Box 21 |
| Correspondence, 1973-1976 Physical Description: 5 folders | Box 8 |
| Correspondence, 1977-1981 Physical Description: 5 folders | Box 9 |
| Correspondence--Colston Warne, 1970-1974 | Box 9 |
| Correspondence--Researchers, teachers, etc., 1973-1975 | Box 9 |
| Documentary: Western Consumers Union 1938-1940, 1974 | Box 9 |
| Documents for History List, 1936-1978 | Box 9 |
| Drafts: Evolution of Consumers Union Board structure, 1973-1975 | Box 9 |
| Film review: Visit to Consumers Union (1969)-- Staff comments, 1974 | Box 9 |
| Films--Storage, 1977 | Box 10 |
| Foundation proposal--American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, 1975 | Box 10 |
| Jean Halloran--Statement before U.S. House Subcommittee, export of unapproved drugs, 1984 | Box 10 |
| John Dunne testimony before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on labor and human resources, 1984 | Box 21 |

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|--|--------|
| Legal agreements, 1972-1981 | Box 10 |
| Physical Description: 2 folders | |
| NEH grant, 1974-1980 | Box 10 |
| Physical Description: 4 folders | |
| Norman Katz, 1974-1975 | Box 10 |
| Oral history project, 1974-1988 | Box 10 |
| Outlines for book on Consumers Union background, approximately 1978 | Box 10 |
| Papers, 1952-1972 | Box 11 |
| Scope and Contents | |
| Includes: Status, Functioning and Prospects of Consumers Union (Robert Brady); Consumer Financed Testing and Rating Agencies (Eugene Beem); The Consumer Reports Subscriber, Portrait of an Intense Consumer (Jack Engledow) | |
| Preliminary inventories for files in CSCM, 1978 | Box 11 |
| Proposals for funding, 1975-1978 | Box 11 |
| Sarah Lawrence College proposal for preservation of records of women in the consumer movement, 1976-1978 | Box 11 |
| Staff, 1972-1981 | Box 11 |
| Sybil Shainwald Files, 1971-1984 | |
| Colston Warne oral history project, 1979-1980 | Box 11 |
| Notes, 1971-1972 | Box 11 |
| Orientation booklet, 1978 | Box 11 |
| Personal, 1972-1979 | Box 11 |
| Testimony, National Women's Health Network, 1984 | Box 11 |

History Project: Consumers Union the First 20 Years, 1938-1980

| | |
|---|--------|
| Background materials, 1938-1980 | Box 12 |
| Chapter drafts--Chapters I-VI, 1972-1974 Physical Description: 7 folders | Box 12 |
| Chapter drafts--Chapters VI-VIII, 1972-1974 Physical Description: 8 folders | Box 13 |
| Chapter drafts--Chapters VIII-XXX, 1972-1974 Physical Description: 11 folders | Box 14 |
| Colston Warne critique and notes, 1974 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 15 |
| Consultants, staff notes, 1939-1954 | Box 15 |
| Outline, 1970-1975 | Box 15 |
| Draft binder (Alan Goodman), 1972-1974 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 15 |
| Source materials alphabetical files--35th Anniversary to Board of Directors, 1938-1974 Physical Description: 11 folders | Box 15 |
| Source materials alphabetical files--Boycott to Publications, 1938-1974 Physical Description: 38 folders | Box 16 |
| Source materials alphabetical files--Subscription Rates to World's Fair, 1938-1974 Physical Description: 14 folders | Box 17 |

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Consumer Policy Institute Records, 1978-1991

Scope and Contents

Includes records pertaining to its precursor, the Institute for Consumer Policy Research.

| | |
|---|--------|
| A Consumers Guide to Biotechnology proposal, 1988 | Box 18 |
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|---|-------------------|
| Below the Line (anti-poverty program), 1987-1988 | Box 18 |
| Budget, 1978-1983 | Box 18 |
| Cleveland-Area Citizens Group proposal, 1980s | Box 18 |
| Conference on Lead Hazards, 1981 | Box 18 |
| Correspondence, 1978-1988 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 18 |
| Correspondence--Requesting support for proposals, replies, 1978-1979 | Box 18 |
| Ending Poverty, 1986-1988 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 18 |
| Energy conservation study, 1981-1982 | Box 19 |
| Fact sheets, 1979-1980 Scope and Contents Including for Institute for Consumer Policy Research | Box 19 |
| Financial, 1981-1984 | Box 19 |
| Financial, 1979-1984 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 21 |
| Financial, 1983-1984 | Oversize-folder 1 |
| Food safety conference, 1980-1984 | Box 19 |
| Health Summit, 1987 Physical Description: 2 folders | Box 19 |
| Hospice project proposals, 1980-1982 | Box 19 |
| Justice for All, 1987 | Box 19 |
| Listing of organizations similar to the Institute, approximately 1979 | Box 19 |
| Low income consumer problems grant proposal, 1979-1980 | Box 19 |

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|--|-------------------|
| National Science Foundation grants, 1982-1983 | Box 19 |
| Notifications of grant awards, 1979 | Box 20 |
| Proposals and other documents to establish the Institute for Consumer Policy Research, 1979-1981 | Box 20 |
| Regulatory Information Network Project information packets, 1983 | Box 20 |
| Report--Biotechnology and Milk (Michael Hansen), 1990 | Box 20 |
| Report--Caring at Home for Older Patients with Late-Stage Cancer (Margaret Gold), 1985 | Box 20 |
| Report--Low-Income Consumers (Andrew Eiler), 1979 | Box 20 |
| Report--Older Americans' Guide to Housing and Living Arrangements (Margaret Gold), 1984 | Box 20 |
| Report--Toxic Chemical Accident Risks in New York City (Barbara Warren, Eileen Nic), 1991 | Box 20 |
| Staffing, 1980-1988 | Box 20 |
| Task Force on Corporate Penalties proposal, 1979-1980 | Box 20 |
| Toxic substances, 1986-1987 | Box 20 |
| Work schedule, 1988 | Oversize-folder 1 |

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