

**Merrill-Palmer Institute: Dr. Michael D. Usdan**  
**Records** 4.5 linear feet (4 SB, 1 Reel)  
1973-1978 (bulk 1974-1978)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Kathy Makas on September 14, 2010.

**Accession Number:** UR002122

**Creator:** Dr. Michael D. Usdan

**Acquisition:** The Michael Usdan Records are part of the Merrill-Palmer records placed at the Walter Reuther Library in the 1980s and early 1990s, beginning in 1982.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “Merrill-Palmer Institute: Dr. Michael D. Usdan Records,” Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** Merrill-Palmer Institute Records Collections at the Walter Reuther Library

One reel-to-reel audiotape reel was transferred to the Reuther’s Audio-Visual Department(see end of inventory).

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

Dr. Michael D. Usdan was president of the Merrill-Palmer Institute from 1974-1977. Educated at Brown University and Teachers College at Columbia University, Usdan worked as a professor at City University of New York before joining Merrill-Palmer. He published widely, writing mainly on educational politics. His records document his work on urban and lower income youth in the Detroit area, as well as research and conferences focusing on urban poor, parent-child relationships and the impact of unemployment on families.

**Important Subjects:**

Child Therapy  
Community education—United States  
Community service  
Day care  
Education—United States  
Emotions in children—Study and teaching  
Family services—United States  
Higher education and state—United States  
Human potential movement—Study and teaching  
Parent-child relations  
Preschool education  
Teacher training  
Unemployment—Psychological aspects  
Urban youth—Education—United States

**Important Names:**

Mead, Margaret  
Milliken, William  
Knapp, Pauline Park Wilson

## Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection. Unboxed AV Material (i.e. reel) is numbered sequentially by item.

### Box 1

1. Merrill-Palmer General
2. Merrill-Palmer Activities
3. Merrill-Palmer Faculty and Staff Lists
4. Annual Reports, 1973-74
5. Annual Reports, 1974-75
6. Annual Reports, 1975-76
7. President's Reports, 1974-77
8. Institute Personnel Directory
9. Lecture Series
10. Newsletter from Usdan with Reprints and Publications sent to Trustees and Members, December 1974-September 1977
11. Kresge Historical Library; General
12. Research Directions at the Merrill-Palmer Institute
13. Proposals
14. Scholarships
15. Telethon Subcommittee, Merrill-Palmer Development Committee, 1977
16. Usdan Press Conference and Reception, 1974-4-17
17. Ethnicity: A Pilot Project; Proposal to Skillman Foundation, 1974
18. Fall Solicitation Letters, 1976
19. Miscellaneous Publications, 1974-76
20. Program Vehicle Usage, 1969-73
21. ABT Association, National Day Care Study, 1974-77
22. Advancement Office, 1974-76
23. Atlanta University Visit, 1976
24. Merrill-Palmer Alumni, 1971-75
25. Brookline Early Education Project
26. Child Care
27. Bicentennial
28. Office Manager, 1973-74
29. Michigan Tuitions, 1964-75
30. Michigan Department of Education, 1974-76
31. Memos; General, 1974-77
32. Faculty, 1975-76
33. Educational Staff Seminar, 1975-9-24-26
34. Students, 1975
35. State Legislators Luncheon, 1975
36. Seminar for Educational Writers, 1975-6-23-26
37. Recruitment
38. Merrill-Palmer Recognition Fund
39. PCDC-Mott Foundation, Year One
40. Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Child Development

## 41-42 Research Proposals

### **Box 2**

1. Research Proposals: Douglas Powell
2. Powell/Travis; Study of Strategies to Reduce the Social Distance Between Families and Child Care Programs, 1977
3. Powell, Douglas; Inkster and Merrill-Palmer Early Childhood Teachers Corps. Project, 1976-77
4. Powell, Douglas; Parent-Caregiver Project, 1975-77
5. Powell, Douglas; Socio-Economic Study of Early Education for the Handicapped
6. Research Proposals: Greta Fein
7. McKee, William; A Cohesive Undergraduate Program in Formal and Informal Learning, 1975
8. Research Proposals: Patricia Voydanoff
9. Research Proposals: Hyman Rodman
10. Research Proposals: F-S
11. Case Conference, NYC, 1975-3-19-21
12. University of Michigan; City University Conference, 1975-3-5-7
13. Groves Conference
14. Iowa Statewide Child Advocacy Conference Des Moines, Iowa, 1977-4-15-16
15. Family and Society Conference
16. Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Huston, Tex., 1977-4-20
17. "Toward the Competent Parent" Conference, Atlanta, Ga., 1977-2-20-21
18. Ohio Foundations Conference, Dayton, Ohio, 1977-10-13-14
19. Nation Conference of Christians and Jews Inc., Joseph Radelet
20. NAEYC Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill., 1977-11-10-13
21. Infant Conference
- 22-24 Consultation on the Human Costs of Economic Trauma: Impact on Children and Families, 1976
25. Consultation on the Human Costs of Economic Trauma: Impact on Children and Families; Program Participants, 1976
26. Consultation on the Human Costs of Economic Trauma; Program, Remarks, Handouts, Papers, 1976
27. George E. Gullen Jr.; Civic Tribute, 1978
28. Dr. Leland H. Stott
29. Dr. Matthew Prophet, Lansing School District
30. Sherwin Wine
31. Andrew Vincent, Detroit Orthopaedic Clinic
32. Dr. Douglas Powell; Student Recruitment and Application Activity
33. Dr. David W. Mann
34. Dr. Margaret Mead, Lecture, 1977
35. Hon, William G. Milliken
36. Organizations
37. Detroit and Michigan Organizations
38. Colleges and Universities

39. Wayne State University
40. Institute for Educational Leadership, 1 of 2

**Box 3**

1. Institute for Educational Leadership, 2 of 2
- 2-3 Parent-Child Development Centers
4. Education Commission of the States
5. American Council on Education, 1974, 1976
6. State of Michigan Department of Education
7. Continuing Education Program, Dr. Russ Mahan
8. Ethnic Heritage Studies
9. Institute for Educational Leadership, Samuel Halperin, Director
10. Detroit Education Task Force, 1974-1976
11. UAW Community Services Department, 1976
12. Regional Learning Service of Central New York, 1975
13. Financial, 1974-76
14. Merrill-Palmer Institute Financial Statements, 1970-75
15. Merrill-Palmer's Case for State Financial Assistance, 1975-76
16. Usdan Personal
17. Writings
18. Speeches
19. Travel
20. Contacts
21. Publications Ordered
22. Memos, 1974-76
23. Correspondence, No Date
24. Correspondence, 1974
25. Correspondence, 1975
26. Correspondence A-H, 1975
27. Correspondence I-Z, 1975

**Box 4**

1. Correspondence, 1976
2. Correspondence, 1977
3. Correspondence, 1978
4. Connecticut Job Communications, Usdan, 1978
5. Correspondence: Congratulatory Letters on Connecticut Appointment, 1977-78
6. Correspondence; U. S. Congress, 1975-76
7. Correspondence; Dr. Rachel Weddington
8. Correspondence; Dr. Arthur E. Wise
9. Correspondence; Max Weiner
10. Correspondence; Dr. Gerald Wehmer
11. Correspondence; Stephen J. Trachtenberg
12. Correspondence; Dr. Robert Spillane
13. Correspondence; Philip O. Spelman

14. Correspondence; Ben M, Snyder, Cranbrook
15. Correspondence; Sidney Smith III
16. Correspondence; Irving I Sigel
17. Correspondence; Edwin F. Shelley
18. Correspondence; David Seeley
19. Correspondence; Henry Saltzman, Citizen's Committee for Children of N. Y. Inc.
20. Correspondence; Dr. Raphael O. Nystrand, NPEL
21. Correspondence; Rodney Muth
22. Correspondence; David Levington
23. Correspondence; Dr. James Levine
24. Correspondence; Mary Lafter
25. Correspondence; Dr. Pauline Park Wilson Knapp
26. Correspondence; Joel Berke
27. Correspondence; Dr. Luvern Cunningham
28. Correspondence; Norman Drachler
29. Correspondence; Hali H. Giessler
30. Frederick Bertolaet
31. Mr. and Mrs. David Techner
32. Dr. Constantina Safilios-Rothschild
33. Mary Robinson, Office of Child Development
34. Hon. Joseph A. Califano, Jr., HEW Secretary
35. Dr. Roland Feldman, Boys Town
36. Leonard E. Goodall
37. Correspondence; Margaret Hoddinott
38. Correspondence; Rodger Hurley
39. Correspondence; Michael W. Kirst
40. Correspondence; Howard Klebanoff
41. Correspondence; Dr. Stephen Bailey
42. Correspondence; Joann Caccavale
43. Correspondence; Sen. Philip A. Hart
44. Correspondence; John S, Hollister
45. Correspondence; George R. Kaplan
46. Correspondence; Margaret Mead/Robert Coles Conference, 1978-5-19-20

**Reel-to-Reel Tape**

1. Dr. Contantina Safilios-Rothschild, Tape B, 1975-05-21