

Paraprofessional Support of Students With Disabilities: Literature From the Past Decade

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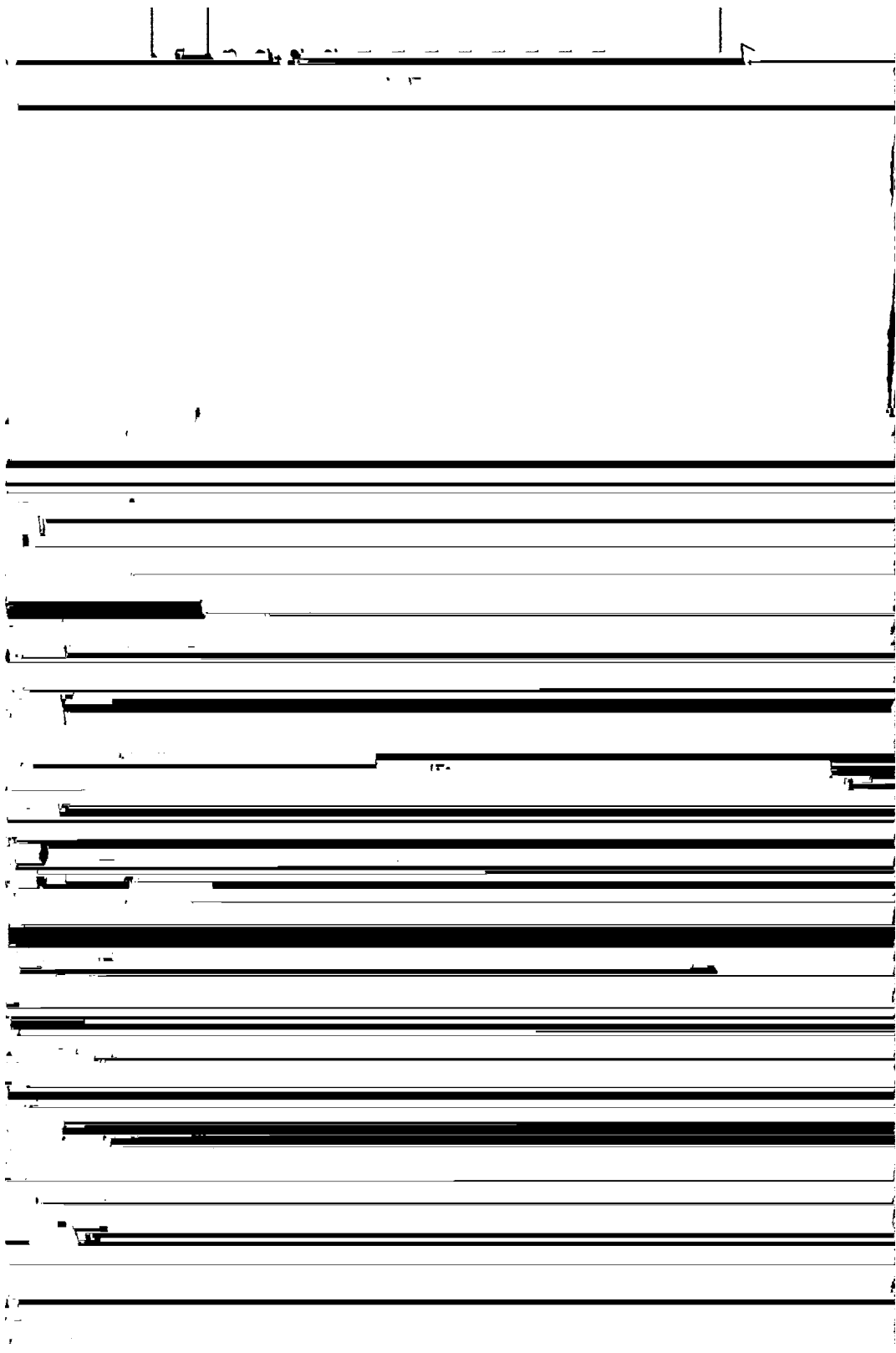
ABSTRACT: *This article summarizes and analyzes a set of 43 pieces of professional literature pertaining to paraprofessional supports for students with disabilities published between 1991 and early 2000. Twenty-six nondatabased sources and 17 research studies were included. The findings identify topical gaps in the literature, review the major databased findings, and present implications for the field. The review concludes with suggestions for future research that emphasize the need for more student outcome data, conceptual alignment of roles, training, and supervision, and the exploration of alternatives to paraprofessional supports.*

The past decade has seen a significant increase in the use of paraprofessionals in education. According to the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals in Education and Related Services (NRCERS, 1997), the number of paraprofessionals in the United States has grown from approximately 300,000 in 1991 to over 1 million in 2000. This growth has been driven by a variety of factors, including the increasing number of students with disabilities in public schools, the need for additional support services, and the emphasis on individualized education programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities. Research has shown that paraprofessionals play a crucial role in supporting students with disabilities, providing them with the additional assistance they need to succeed in the classroom. However, there are still many gaps in the literature regarding the role of paraprofessionals, their training, and their supervision. This article summarizes and analyzes a set of 43 pieces of professional literature published between 1991 and early 2000, identifying topical gaps in the literature, reviewing the major databased findings, and presenting implications for the field. The review concludes with suggestions for future research that emphasize the need for more student outcome data, conceptual alignment of roles, training, and supervision, and the exploration of alternatives to paraprofessional supports.

(SSCI) 1992-2000. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 1. The results show that the most frequently cited authors are Giddens (1984), Habermas (1987), and Habermas & Giddens (1991). The most frequently cited works are Giddens (1984), Habermas (1987), and Habermas & Giddens (1991). The most frequently cited journals are *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Personality Assessment*. The most frequently cited countries are the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The most frequently cited years are 1984, 1987, and 1991. The most frequently cited keywords are Giddens, Habermas, and Habermas & Giddens.

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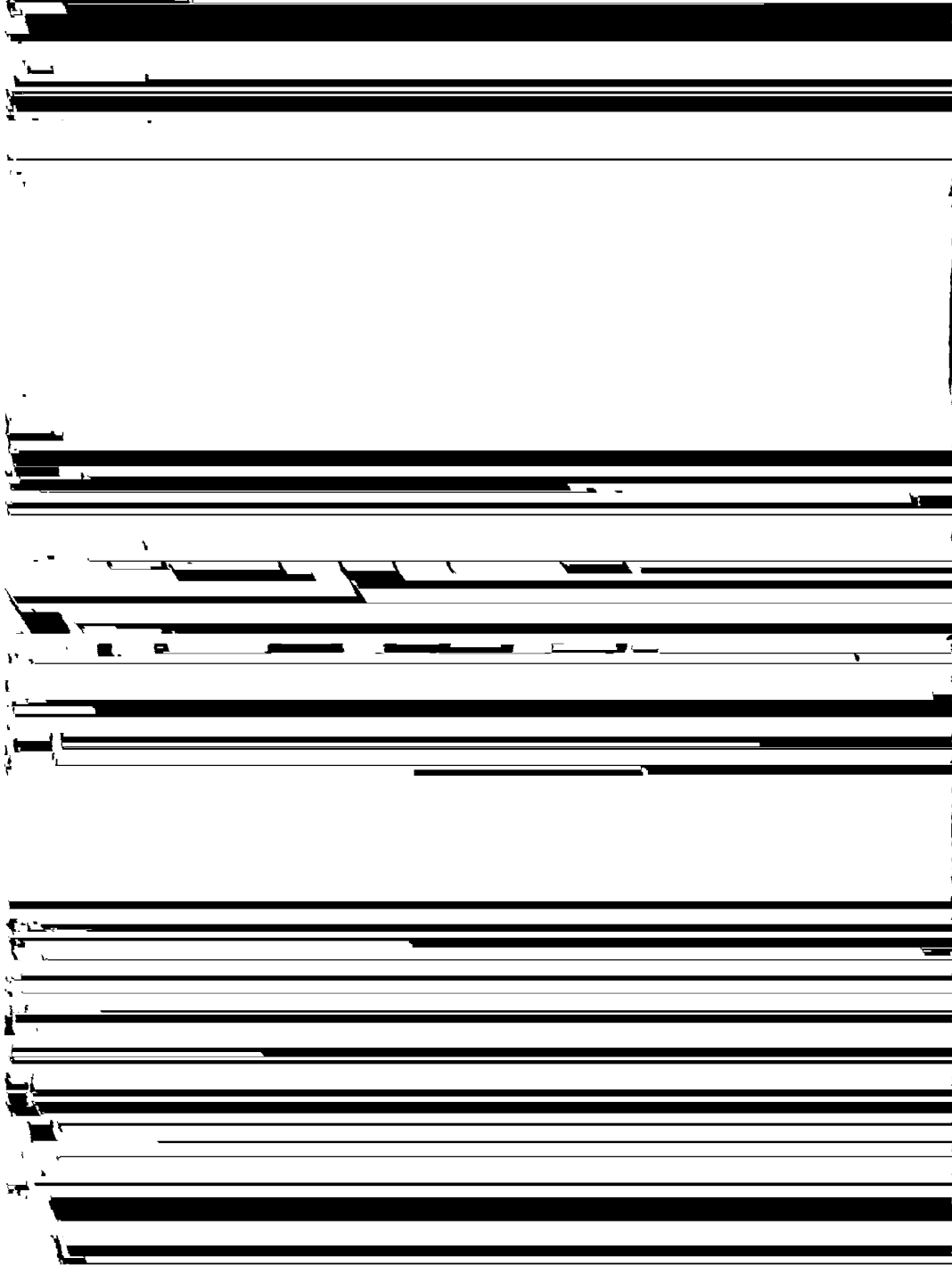
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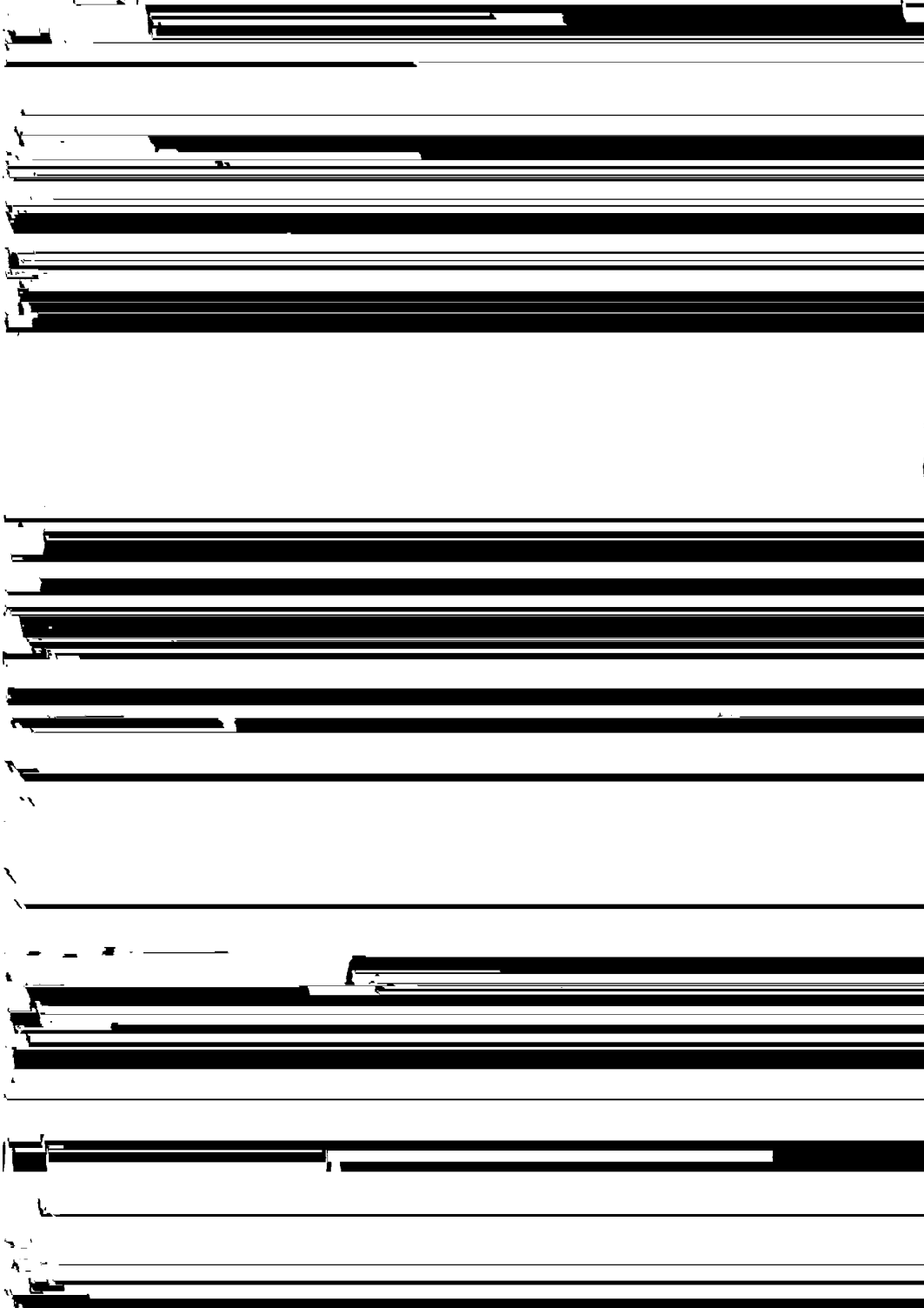
Non-databased Literature

	<i>I or U</i>	<i>Acknowledging</i>	<i>Orientation & Training</i>	<i>Hiring & Assigning</i>	<i>Interactions with Students and Staff</i>	<i>Roles & Responsibilities</i>	<i>Supervision & Evaluation</i>
erson, & Kortler	U		✓	✓			
1992)	U		✓	✓		✓	
	U					✓	
	U	✓					
-Martella, Miller, (1995)	I		✓				
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	I					✓	
997)	U		✓				

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