

# Guide to the Alvin Novick Papers

MS 2087



compiled by Michelle Peralta

August 2023

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2087

**CREATOR:** Novick, Alvin, 1925-

**TITLE:** Alvin Novick papers

**DATES:** 1963 - 1987

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.83 linear feet (14 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** The papers primarily document Novick's research and advocacy work related to AIDS prevention, including work with various LGBT and AIDS organizations, the New Haven Mayor's Task Force on AIDS, and AIDS Project New Haven, as well as national, state, and local agencies related to public policy and treatment of AIDS. Also included is a selection of Novick's research on bat echolocation, teaching and administrative materials as a Yale faculty member and residential fellow of Jonathan Edwards College, and personal correspondence and photographs. Materials in the papers include correspondence with medical professionals, government officials, and federal health agencies, statistical reports, grant applications, reprints and unpublished manuscripts by Novick, as well as medical and LGBT newsletters and publications.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2087>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2087>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Estate of Alvin Novick, 2018.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright and other associated proprietary rights for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Alvin Novick was transferred to Yale University in 2018. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [mssa.assist@yale.edu](mailto:mssa.assist@yale.edu). Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

### Preferred Citation

Alvin Novick Papers (MS 2087). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

### Processing Information

Processing staff arranged and described these materials according to national and local standards. Some material, including the medical school questionnaire on human sexuality courses (Box 3), had been severely damaged by water prior to acquisition. Preservation photocopies were made and the originals destroyed due to their condition. Processing staff have also removed some publications and duplicate materials from these materials.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Alvin Novick was born on June 27, 1925 in Flushing, New York.

During World War II Novick served in the United States Army and was a prisoner of war for three months after being captured in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, Novick attended Harvard College, earning a degree in biochemical sciences in 1947 before earning a doctorate in medicine in 1951 from Harvard Medical School.

After working as a physician for a few years, Novick pivoted to researching echolocation systems of bats. He published extensively on bats, including the book *The World of Bats*.

In 1957 Novick joined the faculty of Yale University as an assistant professor in the Department of Zoology, eventually becoming an associate professor and then professor of biology in 1983. Novick was also a fellow at Jonathan Edwards College, one of Yale University's residential colleges.

In the early 1980s, in the midst of the growing AIDS crisis, Novick began to advocate for AIDS education, awareness, and ethical public policy. He was the President for the American Association of Physicians for

Human Rights, now the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, as well as the co-founder of AIDS Project New Haven and Leeway, a nursing facility dedicated to treating people with AIDS.

Alvin Novick died on April 10, 2005.

---

## **Scope and Contents**

The papers primarily document Alvin Novick's research and advocacy work related to AIDS prevention, particularly work with various LGBT and AIDS organizations, the New Haven Mayor's Task Force on AIDS, and the AIDS Project New Haven.

Novick's involvement with national, state, and local organizations related to public policy and awareness of the AIDS treatment and prevention is also well documented, as is Novick's research on medical school education related to human sexuality.

Also included is a selection of Novick's research on bat echolocation, administrative materials as a Yale faculty member and residential fellow of Jonathan Edwards College, and personal correspondence and photographs.

Materials in the papers include correspondence with medical professionals, government officials, and federal health agencies, statistical reports, grant applications, reprints and unpublished manuscripts by Novick, and medical and LGBT newsletters and publications.

---

## **Arrangement**

The papers are arranged by topic and therein chronologically.

---

## Collection Contents

	AIDS research	
b. 1, f. 1-4	General include mayor's task force	1983-1987
b. 1, f. 5-10	Correspondence	1981-1984, undated
b. 2, f. 1-6b. 1, f. 11-12	Articles on AIDS	1981-1985
b. 2, f. 7	Education pamphlets	Circa 1983
b. 2, f. 8	Gay professional literature	1984
b. 2, f. 9	Advocacy	1984
b. 2, f. 10	Quarantine legislation	1984
b. 2, f. 11	Press releases	1984
b. 2, f. 12	Federal AIDS business	1984-1985
b. 2, f. 13	Testimony	1985
b. 2, f. 14-15	HTLV antibody screening	Circa 1985
b. 2, f. 16	Memo on Confidentiality	undated
b. 2, f. 17	Memo on AIDS epidemiology	undated
b. 2, f. 18	AIDS Information for the General Community	undated
b. 2, f. 19	Risk Reduction for IV Drug Users	undated
b. 3, f. 1	"Prostitutes and AIDS"	undated
b. 3, f. 2	"What Every Prostitute Should Know About AIDS"	undated
b. 3, f. 3	Affection and Sex for Persons with AIDS or AIDS Related Illnesses	undated
b. 3, f. 4	Reduccion de Reiesgo para Usuarios de Drogas Intravenousas (IV)/ Reduction and Risk for Intravenous (IV) Drug Users	undated
b. 3, f. 5	Reducing Risk	undated
b. 3, f. 6-10	Questionnaire on human sexuality education in medical school	Circa 1985-1986
	Organizations	
b. 4, f. 1	Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)	1983-1985
	American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR)	1983-1987
b. 4, f. 2-7	General	1983-1986

Organizations > American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR) (continued)

b. 4, f. 8b. 5, f. 1-2	Statements, publications, and conferences	1983-1987, undated
b. 5, f. 3-5b. 6, f. 1	Correspondence	1983-1987
b. 6, f. 2	Membership	1984-1986
	AIDS Project New Haven (APNH)	1983-1987
b. 6, f. 3-4	General	Circa 1983, 1987
b. 6, f. 5-6	Grants	1983-1984
b. 6, f. 7b. 7, f. 1-3	Connecticut	Circa 1983-1986
b. 7, f. 4-7b. 8, f. 1-2	Center for Disease Control (CDC)	1983-1987
b. 8, f. 3	San Francisco AIDS Foundation	1984
b. 8, f. 4	Lesbian and Gay organizations - Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Circa 1984
b. 8, f. 5	Connecticut Association of Physicians for Human Rights (CAPHR)	1984-1985
b. 8, f. 6-7	Connecticut Stonewall Foundation	1984-1985
b. 8, f. 8	National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF)	1984-1985
b. 8, f. 9-10	Hastings Center	Circa 1984-1986
b. 8, f. 11	AIDS Medical Foundation	1985-1986
b. 8, f. 12	Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund	1985-1986
b. 8, f. 13	Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)	1985-1986
	Statistics	
b. 9, f. 1-5	General	1983-1987
b. 10, f. 1-2	Connecticut	1982-1986
	Writings	
b. 10, f. 3-9	1983-1985	1983-1985
b. 11, f. 1-5	Circa 1985	Circa 1985
b. 12, f. 1-4	Drafts	Circa 1984
b. 13, f. 1-5	Bat research	1961-1968, undated
	Yale materials	
b. 13, f. 6-7b. 14, f. 1	Administrative and teaching	1962-1970, 1984-1985
b. 14, f. 2	Jonathan Edwards College	1971-1985

b. 14, f. 3-5	Personal and biographical materials	Circa 1960-1985
b. 14, f. 6	Photographs	undated



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

AIDS (Disease) -- Prevention  
AIDS (Disease) -- Treatment  
LGBTQ resource

### **Names**

Novick, Alvin, 1925-