

# Finding Test and Measurement Instruments

For use in Education and the Social Sciences

## Important notes about tests and measures

There are several ways to *identify* test instruments to measure behavior and personality traits appropriate for specific client groups. What may be difficult, however, is *finding* actual tests and scoring information. Tests are copyrighted property, with the rights usually held by the publisher. Sometimes the publisher will give you a copy of the test and permission to use it – for a price. They may require that the person conducting the test be trained in using and reviewing the test, and may also want to sell multiple copies of the test. Many sources available in the library simply review or describe the tests, usually providing reliability, validity and sometimes additional information *about* the test.

On the other hand, there are several books in the Library's Reference collection that *do* provide the full text of *some* scales. Tests in these books are in the public domain, meaning they are not covered by copyright, and you are free to use them (remembering, of course, to cite them in the paper's references list). If the full test is not given, at a minimum, several sample questions may be given. Scoring information may or may not be included. Reference books that provide scales in full-text and those that may help you identify instruments are listed later on these pages.

An alternative to finding a published test is to compile your own instrument, using questions from several tests or by writing your own. Please consult your professor for more suggestions on this option.

## Identifying test instruments

The Library has several print and online resources to help you identify test instruments. Techniques and resources are listed below. Once you have a name and description of an instrument, you will need to know the publisher. You can then contact the publisher and inquire about using the test. A Librarian can help you find contact information. In some cases, publishers have been known to grant free educational use of an instrument – it doesn't hurt to ask. Prices may range from \$3.00 to much more. Read below about the HaPI database for another approach to locating a measurement tool through a fee-based service.

We recommend conducting research in the following ways to identify research instruments:

**1. Perform a literature search**, using the subject-appropriate indexes, to find books and journal articles about working with the population in your study. Using this literature, identify personality variables that could be measured in this population.

For example: Your research on homeless people may indicate that they suffer feelings of low self-esteem and hopelessness. You can then attempt to locate instruments to measure the degree of low self-esteem and hopelessness they suffer, in order to determine a plan for recovery.

Knowing that your variables are *self-esteem* and *hopelessness*, use the reference books listed below to identify tests designed to measure these variables. Consult the tables of contents -- some books are indexed by "Problem Area," for example: abuse, anxiety, death concerns, depression, eating problems, identity, self-concept and esteem, stress, and so forth.

**2. Studies conducted in this research** may also reveal the titles of test instruments developed or used by the author(s) of the journal article. Once you know the title of an instrument, determine the publisher/copyright holder, using the reference books listed on these pages. Remember: chances are you may not be able to locate any information about the test, try as you might. Some instruments are quite obscure and are written for a limited population. Reference Librarians can help you, but our resources are limited, as well. Often information on a desired test simply cannot be found. We advise you explore other options or consult your professor.

### **3. HaPI (Health and Psychosocial Instruments)**

Another way to identify instruments is to use the **HaPI** database. For links to HaPI, begin at the Library's Webpage. With your cursor on **Find articles**, slide over to **databases and indexes** and click. Under **Browse databases by subject**, click the arrow and select **Social work**. Scroll down to **HaPI**.

HaPI is an index that covers **journal and reference books** in health, behavioral sciences, social work, and other fields. Whenever a test instrument is mentioned in a journal article, it is indexed in HaPI. In other words, it retrieves **citations** to articles in which instruments are named. It **does not** contain full articles nor does it contain actual tests. You will normally *not even need* to find the article cited -- **the information of primary importance to you is the name of what instrument was used.**

Using HaPI is fairly simple: enter the variables of your clients and inspect the results for their applicability to your case. For example: entering the terms *homeless and self-esteem* will yield citations to articles in which studies have been done and the names of instruments used in the research. Mark and print the citations that interest you, or jot down the name of the test used.

Having identified the names of the tests using HaPI, you can then *try* to locate the particular instrument. You may want to consult books listed under #2 below, or ask the Reference Librarian to help you.

For more about HaPI and contact information for obtaining tests in their files, please see the HaPI guide. Copies are available at the reference desk, or online. From the Library's Website, select **Research Help** then **Library handouts**.

## **Reference books on personality test instruments**

These books are shelved in the Reference Room of the St. Kate's Library. They may not be checked out, but you may make photocopies of the pages you need. Be sure to cite them using proper citation style in your paper's reference or works cited list as the source of your instrument.

### **1. Books that contain actual tests** (not *all* of the tests are in full text, but a great many are)

***Measures for clinical practice / A sourcebook, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.*** (2 vols.)

**Ref. BF 176 .C66 (2000)**

Kevin Corcoran and Joel Fischer. Volume 1: Couples, families and children. Volume 2: Adults. Consult the table of contents in either volume for a listing of instruments by title or cross-indexed by problem area. This is the **\*\*BEST\*\*** source we have for finding the full text of research instruments. Reviews about 400 instruments, more than 1/2 provided in full text.

***Handbook of Family Measuring Techniques***

**Ref. HQ 728 .H267 (2001)**

Note especially vol. 3, Instruments and Index. This volume contains over 150 instruments in full text. Subjects include parenting, relationships, divorce, sibling, caregiving, substance abuse, much more. Vol. 1 and 2 describe instruments and research process. The set is a **\*\*terrific\*\*** resource on this topic.

***Measures of personality and social psychological attitudes***

**Ref. BF 698.4 .M38 (1991)**

Reviews about 150 instruments, about 1/3 in full text. Includes useful discussion (chapter 1, page 6+) for those constructing their own tool.

***Handbook of sexuality-related measures***

**Ref. HQ 60 .H36 (1998)**

Includes tools that measure attitudes toward a broad range of topics such as marriage, homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, contraception and much more. Many presented in full text.

***Measurement of Attitudes Toward People with Disabilities***

**Ref. HV 1553 .A62 (1988)**

**2. Books that describe tests** and will help determine the publisher and ordering info on tests

***Tests in Print V*** (2 vols.)

**Ref. LB 3051 .T47 (1999)**

Provides descriptions, prices and ordering info for every test currently available. If it isn't in here, it probably is no longer in print and therefore, not available from a publisher. Cross-referenced with professional literature and with *Mental Measurements Yearbook*, described below. Covers same subject areas as *MMY* (below).

***Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY)***

**Ref. LB 1131 .B932**

Currently with 14 editions (as of 2001), this set has reviewed virtually every commercially available tool that's been released since 1940. Each edition reviews tests that were new or revised from the previous edition. Subjects covered include educational skills, personality, vocational aptitude, psychology and other related areas.

To find the edition of *MMY* that has reviewed a particular tool, there are several techniques. If you know when a test was copyrighted, you may browse in the edition of *MMY* published just after that date. You may also consult *Tests in Print V* (above) for references to the review in *MMY*.

***Tests, a comprehensive reference....***4<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Ref. BF 176 .T43 (1997)**

An index to assessment tools in the areas of psychology, education and business/vocational aptitude. Brief descriptions and no reviews; primarily of value for identifying tools and obtaining publisher info in order to purchase or otherwise obtain an instrument. Somewhat confusing arrangement and indexing – ask if you need help.

***Occupational therapy assessment tools: an annotated index, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.***

**Ref. RM 735.3 .A84 (1996)**

Includes test descriptions, source for ordering, cost estimation, and sample questions (full test is not provided).

***Assessment of Family Violence***

**Ref. HV 6626 .F45 (2003)**

**3. Other reference books** that may help identify instruments

***Handbook of research design and social measurement***

**Ref. H62 .M44 (1991)**

Great handbook on research design for the social sciences. Particularly useful for explanations of research terms and processes. Reviews the research process and discusses specific sociometric scales. In many cases the instrument and scoring instructions are provided. However, it is poorly indexed – you may have to dig for the scales, since they are embedded in the discussion.

***Measures of social psychological attitudes***

**Ref. BF 698.4 .M38 (1973)**

Provides some full text instruments, but most can be found elsewhere. Those not in full-text often provide sample questions. Somewhat dated but may still be useful.

***Tests and measures in child development: handbook II***

**Ref. BF 722 .J64 (1976)**

Covers children through college-age populations. Covers topics such as social behavior, attitudes, interests, home environment, self-concept, personality, and more. Each entry provides a description of the instrument, some with sample questions. Use *Test in Print* (above) to determine availability of instruments you identify.

***Handbook of family measurement techniques***

**Ref. HQ 728 .J68 (1990)**

Guide to instruments and techniques for measuring and assessing family-related variables. Contains abstracts of over 900 instruments, sample questions from each and comments of reliability and validity.

***Sex and gender issues: A handbook of tests and measures***

**Ref. BF 692 .B38 (1990)**

Lists tests related to topics such as gender, sexuality, homosexuality, rape and sexual coercion, family violence, body image and appearance, eating disorders, and more. Each entry provides a description of the instrument and sample questions. Use *Test in Print* (above) to determine availability of instruments you identify.

***Gender roles: A handbook of tests and measures***

**Ref. HM 253 .B43 (1990)**

Covers topics such as gender roles, children and gender, stereotypes, employee roles, attitudes toward sex role issues, and more. Each entry provides a description of the instrument and sample questions. Use *Test in Print* (above) to determine availability of instruments you identify.

#### **4. Online resources**

**Mental Measurements Yearbook**

**<http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp>**

Search online for the contents of MMY, by alphabetic or subject lists, or by keyword. Once you identify the title of a test, contact the publisher for info on purchasing.

**CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Allied Health Literature)**

CINAHL the database for nursing and allied health professional (including OT), contains references to hundreds of research instruments, many of which are in full text. To search, type your term(s) in the search boxes provided. Then, scroll down to the Limiters area. In the **Publication Type** limiter, select: **questionnaire/scale**.

**PsycInfo**

Searches the literature of all aspects of psychology. You usually won't find the full text of a scale in an article, but it may help you identify one you might want to use. Type "tests" or "scales" in the identifier field.

***For more assistance please stop by the Reference Desk  
or call 651-690-6652 to speak to a Reference Librarian.***

Rickert / May 2007