

Test & Measurement Resources

Introduction to Finding Measurement Instruments

Measurement is part of the research methodology in all disciplines. Using an existing measurement tool or strategy is preferable for two reasons. First, it strengthens the reliability, validity and potential generalizability of your findings since they can be compared to other studies. Second, creating a new instrument or test takes time, test subjects and expertise that will extend the expense and timeframe for your research.

How can I find a measurement scale, test or questionnaire to use in my research?

Consider whether you need a specific test that has been used before with your population. Do you have flexibility in your choice, as there are many different tests that measure the same constructs such as stress, anxiety, pain and you may want to compare various factors of the test to make a selection.

Test Characteristics to Consider

- Validity
- Reliability
- Previous Use in Relevant Populations
- Readability/Language
- Length/Ease of Use
- Cost

I found a test online, can I use it in my dissertation research?

As a researcher who may potentially publish your findings, you are responsible for ensuring that you have permission to use a test for your research. You will need to contact the author or publisher, identifying yourself and how you plan to use the test. While some tests may be used with permission at no charge, most psychological and educational tests must be purchased directly from the publisher -- in part this is so the publisher can first determine if the purchaser is qualified and competent to administer and interpret the test. If you have questions about permissions and copyright on instruments, contact the NCSU Libraries' Digital Scholarship and Publishing Center: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/dspc/contact.html>

Identifying & Reviewing Existing Tests

A wealth of test instruments exist for subject areas such as

- educational skills,
- personality,
- vocational aptitude,
- psychology (feelings, emotions, mental status),
- and related topics.

For a good general overview on finding tests, see the American Psychological Association's FAQ on "[Finding Information about Psychological Tests.](#)"

Example

Terms and Conditions click-through agreement required to download the Canine Brief Pain Inventory, University of Pennsylvania

<http://tiny.cc/upennvetmed>

Terms and Conditions

The questionnaires on PennCHART are copyrighted. However, you are free to use them, in full and reproduce them without charge, providing that you answer a few questions and agree to a few conditions. If you agree to the terms of use, please enter your e-mail address and the CBPI will be mailed to you shortly.

Questions:

Are you (or the person for whom you are downloading this instrument) a veterinarian?*

Yes No

Which one option below best describes the workplace in which this questionnaire will be used?*

Private veterinary practice

For what situation(s) is the assessment tool being considered for use?*

For assessment of study subjects in a veterinary clinical trial

How did you come to be aware of these tools on PennCHART?*

Journal article

Conditions:

1. Each tool used will be acknowledged in any publication or reports by citing the appropriate reference.
2. Each tool is proven valid and reliable only in the form presented here, therefore the format, wording and order of the questions and responses will not be changed.
3. If any tool is copied for others, you undertake to ensure they are aware of these conditions and agree to them.
4. The tools will not be sold in any form.

I agree to the above conditions (Enter Email)*

[Submit](#)

Finding Test Reviews

I need to know if there is an existing test for a particular issue I want to study.

1. Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print (MMY).

A starting place is the online and print resource Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print (MMY). Produced by the Buros Institute at the University of Nebraska, this resource provides basic information (date of publication, publisher information, etc.) as well as full-text reviews of many tests. Look for Publication Date, Population, Time to Administer, Cost, Reviews discuss validity, reliability, usefulness. MMY is also available in paper format in the D. H. Hill Library, 3rd floor, BF431 .M435. Most test instruments referenced in MMY will have to be purchased from the publisher.

Example search

- Search for: engineering
- Sort by: Date Descending
- View the record: [Career Exploration Inventory](#)
- Look for Publication Date, Population, Time to Administer, Cost, Reviews discuss validity, reliability, usefulness.

2. Test Link: Test Collection of the Educational Testing Service

http://www.ets.org/test_link/find_tests

Another searchable online resource is Test Link: the Test Collection of the Educational Testing Service. This resource offers the publisher and cost information as well as some indication of whether the test has been published in the literature, but does not offer the in-depth reviews. One subset of this collection is the Tests in Microfiche Collection (TIM is 1000+ tests out of over 20,000 in the whole ETS collection). To identify these tests in the Test Link system, use the Advanced search option:

TitleSearch: TIM

TitleSearch: keyword (e.g., self-efficacy)

Availability will show as downloadable (for a fee) on the site, but the entire collection is available in full text through NCSU Libraries in microfiche:

<http://www2.lib.ncsu.edu/catalog/record/NCSU719231>

You will need to request it from Satellite Shelving from the Libraries website. Specify the test you need by including the appropriate set (alphabetical - set A, B, etc.) and call/ID number (i.e. TC012345). For additional guidance, ask a librarian.

3. Journal and Research Literature

Searching the research literature of your discipline or the PsycINFO database and/or the ERIC database. These databases include references to journal articles in psychological measurement and education that touch many disciplines, and an article on your topic might refer you to a particular test. Journal articles may include the actual test instrument being discussed, particularly the article in which the initial creation and validation of the instrument is reported. Other articles in which use of the instrument is reported will likely only reference the test, but that can lead you to the test source or publication. Access these databases and others at www.lib.ncsu.edu/databases

Databases with Test Limit

Use Advanced Search options in the PsycINFO and ERIC databases. In PsycINFO, make use of the TM (Tests & Measures) search field to see what tests were used in the study. In ERIC, use the Tests/Questionnaires search limiter, under Publication Type (most of the results will be ERIC Documents).

Databases without Test Limit

Combine your topic search with a cluster of the following assessment keywords to locate a test on a specific topic (be sure to truncate or use both singular and plural forms): e.g., in the PubMed database a search strategy might include something like this: osteoarthritis AND dogs AND (assessment OR interview OR inventory OR measur* OR questionnaire OR rating OR scale OR survey OR test OR tool)

Using Subject Headings

Searching databases using subject heading means you will have greater precision because it will retrieve information on a common topic regardless of the different terminology authors may have used. Each database uses slightly different subject headings. *See the Table 1 on p.3 of this handout for a list of useful keywords and subject headings in various databases.*

4. Book Compilations

Some tests are re-published as compilations in book format. One source to identify such books is the *Tests and Measures in the Social Sciences: Tests available in compilation volumes*. Select Tests and Measurements Resources in the NCSU Libraries website lists some of the most commonly used resources of this kind:

www.lib.ncsu.edu/guides/tests/testsbib.html

Example:

Major psychological assessment instruments. Edited by Charles S. Newmark. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1996. DH Hill Library, 3rd floor, BF176 .M35 1996

Any similar titles not available at NCSU Libraries may be requested via Tripsaver:

www.lib.ncsu.edu/tripsaver

Table 1. Useful keywords and subject headings in various databases.

DATABASE	SCOPE	SUBJECT HEADINGS (select)	LIMITS	KEYWORDS
Animal Behavior Abstracts	Database of animal behavior literature, from neurophysiology to behavioral ecology, from genetics to applied ethology	Inventories	No relevant publication types.	<p>Consider using the following keywords to locate a test on a specific topic (be sure to truncate or use both singular and plural forms).</p> <p>e.g., depression AND (assessment OR interview OR inventory OR measur* OR questionnaire OR rating OR scale OR survey OR test OR tool)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment • interview • inventory • measure • measurement • post-test • pre-test • questionnaire • rating • scale • sub-test • survey • test • tool
CINAHL	Database of the literature of nursing & the allied health professions. Some articles include instrument.	Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale, Assessment Instrument, Diagnosis Psychosocial, Functional Assessment, Glasgow Coping Scale, Health Status Indicators, McGill Pain Questionnaire, Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire, Pain Measurement, Patient Assessment, Process Assessment (Health Care) Symptom Distress Scale, Ways of Coping Questionnaire.	Publication Type: “Questionnaire/Scale” and/or “Research Instrument”.	
Compendex or INSPEC via Engineering Village	International database of engineering and computer science literature	Headings: Surveys Uncontrolled terms: Questionnaires	No relevant publication types.	
ERIC	International database of educational literature	Educational Assessment, Questionnaires, Surveys, Test Items, Test Reviews... (many more)	Publication Type: Tests/Questionnaires	
PsycINFO	Database of psychology literature; includes journal articles, dissertations, reports, English-language book chapters and books, etc.	Body Sway Testing, Cognitive Assessment, Geriatric Assessment, Likert Scales, Neuropsychological Assessment, Personality Measures, Psychiatric Evaluation, Psychodiagnostic Interview, Psychologic Assessment, Questionnaires, Rating Scales, “Scaling (Testing)”, Test Bias, Test Interpretation, Test Reliability.	Index: “Tests and Measures”	
PubMed	International database of biomedical literature produced by the National Library of Medicine.	Geriatric Assessment, Health Care Surveys, Health Surveys, Interviews as Topic, Nutrition Assessment, Questionnaires, Trauma Severity Indices, Psychiatric Status Rating Scales, Psychological Tests, Pain Measurement, Health Status Indicators...	No relevant publication types.	

*Chart adapted from “Survey and Test Instruments in the Health Sciences”, the University of Western Australia <http://libguides.library.uwa.edu.au/content.php?pid=34342&sid=253828>

Resources for Learning More about Tests and Testing

If you are planning to develop your own instrument, search the NCSU Libraries catalog or the literature for resources. The catalog is searchable by author, title, subject and keyword. When conducting subject heading searches, try using some of the following:

- Educational tests and measurements
- Psychological tests
- Psychometrics
- Scaling (Social sciences)
- Examinations -- validity
- Intelligence tests
- Personality tests
- Surveys
- Social surveys
- Instrument name
 - e.g., Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory

Examples:

Handbook of research on electronic surveys and measurements. Rodney A. Reynolds, Robert Woods Jason D. Baker. Hershey, PA : Idea Group Reference, 2007. DH Hill Library, 4th floor, HA31.2 .H347 2007 and online as an e-book.

The SAGE handbook of public opinion research edited by Wolfgang Donsbach and Michael W. Traugott. Los Angeles, Calif. ; London : SAGE, 2008. DH Hill Library, 4th floor, HM1236 .S24 2008

Expertise Elsewhere on Campus

NC State offers courses on psychometrics and there is also the NCSU Psychometrics Lab pursuing research related to psychological measurement:

<http://ioppsychology.chass.ncsu.edu/meade/default.htm>

Students taking educational psychology courses may examine the test collection at the College of Education Media Center at Poe Hall. This collection contains about 650 full-length tests (in the areas of education and psychology such as intelligence, personality, memory, skill mastery, etc.). Due to publisher restrictions, tests in the Media Center collection are not available for anyone to use to administer, to assess, or to provide feedback to anyone. For additional information about this collection, contact the Media Center:

<http://ced.ncsu.edu/medctr/staff.php>

At Other Institutions

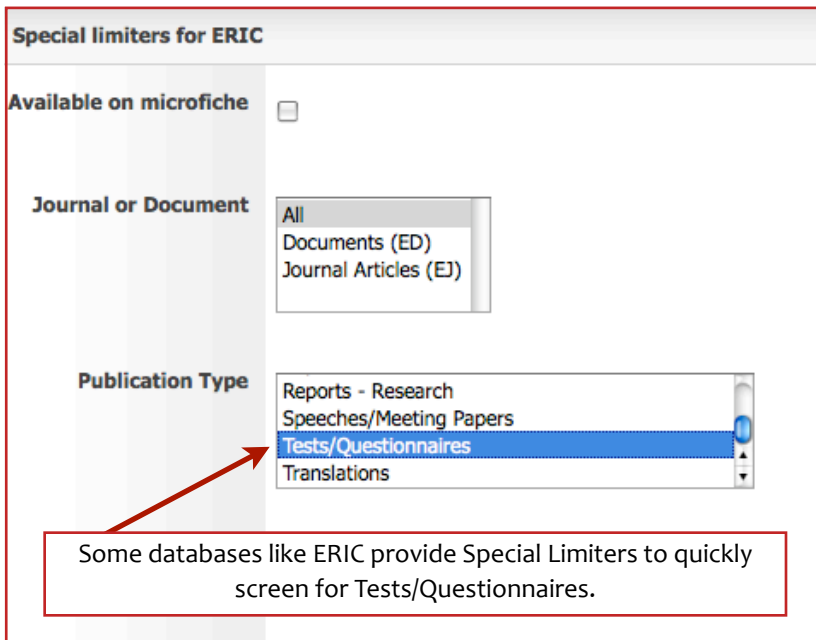
There are also many helpful university-based websites on instruments.

Example:

Social-Personality Psychology Questionnaire Instrument Compendium, Dr. Alan Reifman, Texas Tech University
<http://www.webpages.ttu.edu/areifman/qic.htm>

You may also wish to visit other Triangle Research Libraries Network libraries to use subject-specific test identification databases such as Health and Psychosocial Instruments (1985-present) available at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Heath Sciences Library:

<http://www.hsl.unc.edu>



The screenshot shows the 'Special limiters for ERIC' interface. It includes a checkbox for 'Available on microfiche', a 'Journal or Document' dropdown menu with options 'All', 'Documents (ED)', and 'Journal Articles (EJ)', and a 'Publication Type' dropdown menu with options 'Reports - Research', 'Speeches/Meeting Papers', 'Tests/Questionnaires', and 'Translations'. A red arrow points to the 'Tests/Questionnaires' option in the 'Publication Type' dropdown. Below the screenshot, a text box states: 'Some databases like ERIC provide Special Limiters to quickly screen for Tests/Questionnaires.'



Get help from a librarian at www.lib.ncsu.edu/askus

(919) 515-2935

Buddy name: ncstatelib
(AIM, Gmail, Yahoo, or MSN)

libref@ncsu.edu

In Person at DH Hill ,
Vet Med, Design, Textiles,
Natural Resources