

Tests: Selected Resources

Introduction

There are many sources in which social scientists can find information about tests. Most commercially published tests are completely described in a few comprehensive sources (see section I below). These are the bibliographies most likely to be helpful if your need is for detailed information on a particular formal instrument such as the MMPI or one of the Wechsler Scales.

For the purpose of identifying an instrument for use for your own research, the large commercial tests described are likely to be too elaborate as well as expensive. Section II describes sources for finding less formal tests; many of them developed by individual researchers, who tend not to publish their tests commercially. If you are a novice researcher, an examination of one or more of these may help you gain some insight into such matters as how questions can be worded so as not to prompt particular responses. It may also be possible to find a test suitable to be used "as is"

by consulting the sources in Section II.

Keep in mind that even unpublished tests and tests published in journals have copyright protection. One should be particularly careful not to alter or adapt another's test without permission. Authors can sometimes be located by consulting the *National Faculty Directory* (L 901 .N34 Watson Ready Reference) or by checking a periodical index to the appropriate discipline for articles by the researcher. (Research journals, and even the citations in electronic journal indexes, are also sources for locating authors in that they tend to identify the author's affiliation.) A call to an author may elicit valuable information, such as news of a revised version of a test, or of new psychometric information, as well as permission to use or adapt the test.

The KU Libraries does not own an extensive collection of tests due to usage restrictions and copyright expenses. The closest collection of tests is located in the Mabee Library Curriculum Resources Center at

Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. For more information go to their Web site at <http://www.washburn.edu/mabee/crc/> or contact them by phone at 785-231-1010.

KU does own access to tests in the source *Tests in Microfiche*. Tests published in this resource can be copied and used “as is” without contacting the author.

I. General Test Bibliographies

Mental Measurements Yearbook, Yearbooks 9-16.

Available on all computer workstations in the KU Libraries and to all KU students, faculty, and staff with remote Internet access.

The *Mental Measurements Yearbook*, from the Buros Institute, contains descriptive information and critical reviews of more than 2,000 commercially available standardized English-language educational, personality, aptitude, neuropsychological, achievement, and intelligence tests. Each entry includes test name and classification, author(s), publisher, publication date, price, time requirements, existence of validity and reliability data, score descriptions, levels, and intended populations. There are good overviews of the test and a description of the test materials. Each entry also includes one or two

reviews of the tests with information about the reviewer.

Tests in Print.

Z 5814 .E9 T47 Regents Center has nos. 1-4 (1961-1994) and Watson Library Reference has nos. 1-7 (1961-2006)

Tests in Print provides information about tests currently available from publishers. Each entry contains the purpose, intended population, publication date, administration information, score descriptions, price, author, and publishers. When available, the entries also provide cross-references to reviews and other information on the test in previous additions of *Tests in Print*.

Test Reviews On-line

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

The Buros Institute offers a web site that provides free information on more than 4,000 commercially available tests, including current publisher information. More than 2,000 of those tests have been carefully reviewed by the Buros Institute and can be ordered on-line

Tests: A Comprehensive Reference for Assessments in Psychology, Education, and Business. Eds. Richard C. Sweetland and Daniel J. Keyser. 5th ed. 2003.

BF 176. T43 2003 Watson Library Reference.

Tests is a reference guide containing information on thousands of assessment instruments. It does not attempt to review or evaluate tests; its purpose is to present concise descriptions in a quick-to-scan format.

There are five indexes including an index of publishers, authors, and test titles. There is also an index of tests and an index of publishers that are not in this edition,

Test Critiques.

BF 176 .T419 Watson Library Reference has vols. 1-11 (1984-2005).

This is a good source for detailed descriptions of tests. Each entry has a section on Practical Applications/Uses and Technical Aspects. A critique and bibliography are also included. Indexes in vol. 11 cover author/reviewer names, titles, subjects, and publishers.

Directory of Test Collections in Academic, Professional, and Research Libraries. Eds. Paul G. Fehrmann and Nancy Patricia O'Brien. **LB 3051 .D564 2001 Watson Library**

Reference

ETS Online

<http://www.ets.org>

Information about tests published by ETS is available here along with resources for test takers.

AmoebaWeb: Psychology on the Web! Online Tests.

<http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/amoebaweb/>

Douglas Degelman, the Vanguard University professor who maintains this web site, has provided a link to online tests.

II. Specialized Lists for Finding Unpublished Tests

ETS Test Collection. Tests in Microfiche. 1975-date.

Located in Watson Library – 4th Floor

Sets A-W, Cumulative Index to Sets A-X: LB 3051 .T45

This steadily growing microfiche collection contains many unpublished tests. The majority of tests are education-related, but instruments by and for applied psychologists, counselors, and sociologists can be found. An especially helpful aspect of this collection is that it includes test manuals, when such exist, and often an article by the test's author explaining the use of the test.

Directory of Unpublished Experimental Measures. Eds. Bert A. Goldman and David F. Mitchell.

BF 431 .D47, vols. 1-8 Watson Library Reference.

Lists unpublished mental measures reported in psychology, sociology,

educational psychology, and counseling journals from 1970-2000. Although organized by attribute measured, then by test title, there is also a topic index. Entries identify the article and give specific metric characteristics as mentioned in the article. In some cases, notes on related research are included, e.g. references to other articles by the author or to a review. Information on test suppliers is sometimes given in these articles.

Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. American Psychological Association, American Educational Research Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education.

LB 3051 .A693 1999 Watson Library Reference.

This publication is useful for general information on what to look for in selecting tests, whether they are published or unpublished, for use or adaptation. These standards are updated as new problems and issues involving testing arise.

III. Specialized Test Guides and Handbooks for More Information

Children's Psychological Testing: A Guide for Nonpsychologists. David L. Wodrich.

BF 722 .W63 1997 Watson Library Stacks.

Includes descriptions of tests, but more importantly, includes updated information and recent changes in psychological tests.

Handbook of Psychoeducational Assessment. Eds. Jac J. Andrews, Donald H. Saklofske, and Henry L. Janzen.

LB 1131 .H354 2001 Watson Library Stacks.

This book provides critical information on the nature and scope of commonly used tests. Entries contain information on reliability, validity, administration, scoring, interpretation of the tests, and how the tests may differ from each other in utility with specific populations.

Handbook of Psychological Testing. Paul Kline.

BF 176 .K575 1993. Regents Center and Watson Library Stacks.

A look at all types of psychological tests, including the rationale and items for these tests, theory and practice, reliability, validity, test variance, standardization, norms, scaling, computerized testing, tailored testing, and item banking.

Handbook of Tests and Measurements for Black Populations. Ed. Reginald L. Jones.

BF 176 .H37 1996, vols. 1-2 Watson Library Stacks.

A compilation of tests and measures developed or modified for use with Africa Americans.

Positive Psychological Assessment: A Handbook of Models and Measures.
Eds. Shane J. Lopez and C.R. Snyder.

**BF 176 .P67 2003 Watson Library
Reference**

This is a resource to help researchers find empirical evidence measuring human strengths. It includes a subject and author index.

Testing and Standards: A Brief Encyclopedia. Sandra Wilde.

LB 3051 .W4966 2002

This resource includes the basics of what teachers and students need to know about testing and standards, including criterion, equity, scoring, politics of testing, validity, and test security.

Conclusion

Besides the sources just listed, keep in mind that there are a number of periodical indexes which include articles mentioning the use of tests. Electronic periodical indexes are good sources to identify recent tests developed for a particular purpose. *PsychInfo*, *ERIC*, and *Social Work Abstracts* are all good sources for periodical searches. (Try your subject search with the Boolean operator “and” with the word “test”, i.e., intelligence AND test.) In *ERIC*, you can refine your search by including the document type

number for tests (DTN=160), combining it with your subject search.

You should also keep in mind that there are many more bibliographies of tests in the KU Libraries, many subject-specific. This is not a complete list. New titles continue to be published. You can try searching the *KU Online Catalog* by subject using the following subject headings:

- Ability-Testing
- Achievement Tests
- Character Tests
- Disability Evaluation
- Personality Assessment
- Personality Tests
- Psychological Tests
- Psychological Tests for Children
- Psychometrics
- Intelligence Tests
- Educational Evaluation
- Educational Tests and Measurements
- Examinations
- Occupational Aptitude Tests

If you browse the stacks in the call number areas which are associated with the above subject headings, you may come upon several series which treat assessment in a particular area. These are often rich sources of information about tests.