Find Research Instruments  
Fall 2018

Research instruments are used to measure or collect data on a variety of variables ranging from physical functioning to psychosocial well-being. Types of measurement tools include scales, indexes, surveys, interviews, and informal observations.

Before You Start:

- Identify your instrument before you start your research. If you are not certain, do a literature search on your topic to see what other researchers have used.

- Research Instruments are usually copyrighted.
  - Copyright owners may want to know your qualifications for requesting/using the tests.

- To obtain instruments, including manuals, forms and scoring, you will need to contact the copyright owner.
  - The copyright owner may be the publisher or the author of the instrument.
  - There is usually a fee.

- Published/Commercial tests are usually available for purchase through a test publisher.

- Unpublished tests are not commercially sold and are often found in journal articles or books.

- Rarely is an instrument “free for use”.

- If an instrument is available full text in a published source (i.e. journal article, book, dissertation) you must obtain permission from the author or copyright owner to use the instrument in a research project.

- If a research instrument is not copyrighted, you might be able to find it in Google, but usually not the answer key.

- For more information view Tests & Measures Guide at https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/tests

- Databases and websites listed below are not a repository of the actual resources.

To find an Instrument to measure a variable:

- Identify the variable you would like to measure, such as depression, quality of life, job satisfaction, etc.

- Use standard sources to identify an instrument such as:
  - ETS Test Link at https://www.ets.org/test_link/about
  - The Mental Measurements and Tests in Print (TIP) - a database via EBSCO platform.
  - Test Reviews Online (Buros) at https://marketplace.unl.edu/buros/

- Search the research literature using our databases (CINAHL, PsycINFO, ERIC, Mental Measurements, etc.) to find studies that have used instruments to measure your variable.
To find a Review of an instrument:

- Look at standard test reviews to insure appropriate use and coverage.
- Locate an extensive review in:
  - *The Mental Measurements and Tests in Print* via our database
  - *Test Critiques* (Babbidge Library has 1984 and 1987 located on Level 2 at BF176.T4195)
- If a standard review is not available, check for reviews or information in the research literature using our databases (CINAHL, PsycINFO, etc.):

To locate the Full-Text of an instrument try searching:

- **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses** database:
  - Instruments are often used and usually appear in an appendix.
  - Read the abstract or table of contents to identify the tool used, scan the methodology section.

- Other sites for institutional dissertations/theses:
  - **OpenCommons@UConn**
    - An electronic repository of the intellectual output of the University of Connecticut community.
    - [https://opencommons.uconn.edu](https://opencommons.uconn.edu)
  - **Nursing Commons** (click Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing link)
    - A Digital Commons Network of 167 Nursing universities.
  - **Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons**
    - A Digital Commons Network of 384 Universities

To locate the Full-text of a *commercially published* tests:

- First verify test name using:
  - *Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print* via our Databases
  - *ETS Test Link* [https://www.ets.org/test_link/about](https://www.ets.org/test_link/about)
- Locate the test publisher using:
  - *Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print* via our Databases
  - Buros *Test Reviews Online* will give publisher information (Do not pay for reviews online!)
  - *Google* for publisher information

To locate the full text for *unpublished tests*:

- Verify the test name using:
  - *ETS Test Collection* at [https://www.ets.org/test_link/about](https://www.ets.org/test_link/about)
- Search our subject-appropriate databases to identify journal articles that may include the full text of some instruments.
- Try *Google* or *Google Scholar*, as some tests *may* appear on the Internet.
• If no full-text available, contact the author who created the test.

Searching UConn Library Databases: Search one database at a time for best results!

• **Mental Measurements Yearbook** - via EBSCO.
  - Find instruments that have the word “anxiety” in the title:
    - Enter term: **anxiety**, select “**Ti Test Name**” from the drop-down box
  - Click the **article title** for cost information (Price Data) and full test reviews.
  - Another example enter phrase: *(conners or selective attention)* and select **SC Scores**

• **PsycINFO** via EBSCO
  - Find a specific test on your variable using **TM Tests & Measures**
    - Type variable: **depression**, select **TM Tests & Measures** from the drop-down box.
  - From your results, click the article title of interest, and look at the **Tests & Measures**
    Field within the record:
      
      | Tests & Measures: | Beck Depression Inventory | DOI: 10.1037/00741-000 |
      | Geriatric Depression Scale | DOI: 10.1037/00930-000 |
      | Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression | DOI: 10.1037/04100-000 |

  - Find specific instrument with name or acronym using **TM Tests & Measures**
    - **Beck Depression Inventory** and select **TM Tests & Measures**
    - **Perceived Interpersonal Closeness Scale** and select **TM Tests & Measures**

  - Find tests in the **Keywords (KW)**, **Abstract (AB)**, or **Title (TI) Fields** from drop down box
    - **Beck Depression Inventory** and select **KW Keywords**

  - Find articles discussing a specific tool in the **SU Subjects field**
    - Type tool: **Rosenberg Self-Esteem** and select **SU Subjects** from drop down box.

  - Find articles using any research measurement on your variable:
    - Type variable in the first box: **self-esteem**
    - Type **Measurement** in the second search box and select **SU Subjects** from drop down
- Use the PsycINFO Thesaurus (top tool bar) to find the standard term, or descriptor, for your variable or instrument. For example, Occupational Stress is used for Burnout and is more comprehensive.
  - Limit results using test validity or test reliability in the DE Subjects[exact] Field.
  - Use TM, KW or AB fields if your instrument is not a descriptor

- Find “appended” instruments:
  - Enter Unidimensional Relationship Closeness Scale, select TM Tests & Measures.
  - Enter appended in second box, select TM Tests & Measures.
  - Click Search; tool should be appended at the end of the article.

  Click the article title and it will show that the test is appended; click Full Text link.

- CINAHL Plus with Full Text via EBSCO
  - Find research instruments on your variable using IN Instrumentation:
    - Enter depression and select Instrumentation from the Select a Field drop-down menu

  When you find a citation of interest, click the citation title to view detailed description, and look at the Instrumentation field within the record:
Find research about a specific instrument using two methods:

- Enter **Beck Hopelessness Scale**, select **IN INSTRUMENTATION** from drop-down

- Type **Beck Hopelessness Scale** select **SU Subject Heading** from drop-down

Find descriptions of instruments using **Research Instrument** in **PT Publication Type**. [May sometimes have an appended instrument.]

Search **hopelessness AND Research Instrument** using **PT Publication Type**

Find discussion of instruments in research articles using **Questionnaire/Scale** in **PT Publication Type**. [May sometimes have partial or complete examples of questionnaires or scales.]

Search **postpartum depression AND questionnaire/scale** using **PT Publication Type**

**Instrumentation:** Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), Sickness Impact Profile (SIP), Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA) Scale, Medical Outcomes Study Short Form- 36, RAND-36 Health Survey (RAND-36)
Find reviews (validity/reliability) on an instrument
- Search name of instrument with validity or validation and/or reliability
- Search instrument with CINAHL Headings (i.e. MH "Reliability and Validity+")
- Beck Depression AND (MH "Reliability and Validity+")

**ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)** via EBSCO
- Find a test for your variable:
  - Combine a keyword and limit to Test/Questionnaires as a Publication Type
  - Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale and Tests/Questionnaires in PU Publication Type
  - Eating disorders or anorexia nervosa AND Tests/Questionnaires in PU Publication Type

Find a Specific Test
- Search by instrument name or acronym and limit to Tests/Questionnaires in PU Publication Type

Find Test Reviews
- Search by instrument name and limit using ERIC Thesaurus terms (located in blue tool bar) such as Test Validity, Content Validity, Construct Validity, Interrater Reliability, Test Reliability, Test Reviews, etc. in the DE Descriptor field
- Beck Depression Inventory AND Test Validity in DE Descriptors

**Dissertations & Theses**
- **ProQuest Dissertations** via ProQuest
  - View dissertations on similar topics.
  - Search by instrument name or by variable being measured.
  - Type Hopelessness in the first box, select Document Title using drop down.
  - Type older adults in the second box and select Abstract using drop down.
- NOTE: You could also search both concepts in document title and abstract.

- View the full text of the dissertation or theses if available, instruments should appear in the appendix.
- Skim the Abstract or “Table of Contents to identify the name of the instrument(s).

- **HaPI (Health & Psychosocial Instruments)** - UCONN subscription ended October 15, 2016!

- **PubMed**
  - Search by keywords. Enter the instrument name or acronym in the search box and add keywords such as "validity" or "reliability".
    - "beck depression inventory" AND (validity OR reliability)
  - Combine your variable search results with Medical Subject headings (MeSH or MH) to identify articles that may discuss or evaluate instruments. Sample MeSH terms include: Questionnaires[MH]; Reproducibility of Results[MH]; Validation Studies as a Topic[MH]; Health Survey[MH]; Interviews[MH]; Nutrition Surveys[MH]; Psychiatric Status Rating Scales[MH]; Psychometrics[MH]; etc.
    - burnout AND questionnaires[MH]
  - "beck depression inventory" AND Validation Studies as Topic[MH]
  - HINT: Use quotation marks to specify a phrase search.
  - Limit search results by using the Publication Type (PT) field.
    - "beck depression inventory" AND validation studies[pt]
Other Sources for Tests and Instrument Information:

- **Health Services and Sciences Research Resources (HSRR)** from the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology
  - Brief descriptions of research resources, links to PubMed, and URLs of providers for additional information or access to the resources.

- **ETS Test Collection** from Education Testing Service at [https://www.ets.org/test_link/about](https://www.ets.org/test_link/about)
  - Information on more than 25,000 tests including **Tests in Microfiche** (TIM)
  - Babbidge Library has **Tests in Microfiche** (1975-2004) located at *Microform Research Guides Table - Level 3 (Microfiche readers on Level 1)*

- **American Psychological Association**
  - Provides information about published and unpublished instruments.

- **Google** or **Google Scholar**
  - Limit specific tool name or have some specific keywords and restrict the file type to .pdf or domain such as edu.

- **Psychological Tests for Student Use**
  - Collection of 19 psychological attitude tests.
  - [http://www.yorku.ca/rokada/psyc/test/](http://www.yorku.ca/rokada/psyc/test/)

- **PROQOLID** (Free access version gives basic information, **not full access to research**)
  - [https://eprovide.mapi-trust.org/](https://eprovide.mapi-trust.org/)
  - Describes (does not provide) patient-centered outcomes (PCO) and quality of life (QOL) instruments and questionnaires
  - Find a specific test or find test for a variable. Browse an alphabetical list of instruments or use the search option.

- **Standards, Codes, & Guidelines (Buros)**
  - List of professional guidelines for psychology and education.
  - [http://buros.org/standards-codes-guidelines](http://buros.org/standards-codes-guidelines)

- **Rand Health Surveys** (most are in the public domain)
  - [http://www.rand.org/health/surveys_tools.html](http://www.rand.org/health/surveys_tools.html)
  - **Find a Specific Test/Find Test for Variable** Click on Surveys, browse by categories such as quality of life **Find Test Reviews**

- **National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)**
  - [https://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/](https://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/)

- **HealthyPlace.com** has online psychological tests

- Use the **Library general search box** to find books or journal articles at Babbidge
  - Search concepts: “family measurement”, “family assessment”, “depression assessment”, “nursing instruments”, or specific tools, i.e. Beck depression inventory
- Quotes will search for the phrase or exact title of book

- Use Filters under Refine My Results; select **Books** and **full text online**
- Click **Advanced Search** to Refine Results (i.e. books, English, year)
- Click book title link to **export results**, find location or for more details

- Under **Details**, find other search terms called **Subjects** – just click the headings to find more sources.

- Search concept with additional terms (i.e. psychological tests, educational tests, etc.)
  
  - assessment AND depression

- Search the instrument name:
  
  - Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale
  - Beck Depression Inventory
Print:


eBooks:


Journal Article:


Tests & Measures Guide at https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/tests

Valori Ann Banfi
Nursing & Psychology Liaison
valori.banfi@uconn.edu
(P) 860-486-2824
August 16, 2018