Measures and Surveys and Scales, Oh My!:
A Research Guide for PhD Students

This Research Guide will help dissertation students locate measuring instruments and psychometric information about them. The term test is used when referring to any type of instrument or tool, including measure, survey, questionnaire, scale, and interview.

I. DATABASES

To access databases, go to the Alliant Library homepage (http://library.alliant.edu) and click the link for Research Databases. An Alliant ID or barcode number is needed to access databases from off-campus.

1. APA PsycTEST – Advanced Searching

You can search PsycTEST using basic keywords, but the Advanced Search allows for more precise searching.

Searchable Fields

The available search fields change when you conduct a cross-database search. The options below demonstrate the features when you have limited your search to PsycTESTS only, so make sure that is the only database selected. The Look For section allows you to select searchable fields, described on the following page.
The searchable fields in PsycTESTS are

- **Any Field:** Yields results from all the searchable fields.

- **Administration Time:** The time required to administer the test (e.g., 1 hour, 2–3 hours, 30–45 minutes).

- **Author:** Author(s) of the test or source document.

- **DOI Number:** the DOI registered with CrossRef for the PsycTESTS Master Record.

- **Index Terms:** Controlled vocabulary applied from the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*.

- **Keywords:** Search three fields simultaneously—test name, index terms, and keywords (natural language words describing the document’s content).

- **Language:** Indicates all languages in which the test is available.

- **Population:** Detailed descriptions of the sample population. Examples: Institutionalized patients living in nursing homes; Undergraduates in Israel; Buddhists. Note that this is distinct from the **Population Group** limit, where you can search for six possible values: human, animal, male, female, inpatient, and outpatient.

- **Publisher:** the name of the test publisher (generally for commercial tests only).

- **Purpose:** A brief summary of what the test or measure is intended to assess.

- **Release Date:** the date the Master Record was released into PsycTESTS.

- **Setting:** The setting in which the test was administered. Examples: Hospital, Nursing Home, Nursery School.

- **Source Document Citation:** Use this to find a specific article, book, or chapter used to create a test record. The full citation for the source document that describes the development, evaluation, or use of the test will be found in the Reported in field of the Test Development, Test Review, or Test Use record. However, search using only the book or chapter title, journal title, volume, or year.

- **Test Construct:** The psychological construct being measured.

- **Test Name:** The name of the test or its acronym. Either will bring results if the test is in the database. For tests with no names, trained APA staff have created a name for the purposes of PsycTESTS records.

- **Unique Identifier:** an APA-generated unique identifying number for any PsycTESTS record: Master Records, Test Development, Test Review, Test Use, or Test Primary Data.
Only Show Content Where

1. On the Advanced Search screen, you can easily limit your searches to full-text tests only:

2. The Only Show Content Where section allows you to limit your search by known aspects:

- **Fee**: Indicates whether there is a fee for test use. Values are Yes, No, and Unknown. A “yes” generally indicates a commercial test publisher.

- **Test Record Type**: Indicates the type of records available. There are four values: Test Development, Test Review, Test Use, and Test Primary Data.


- **Permissions**: Indicates the copyright holder’s guidelines for use of the test. Values are May Use for Research/Teaching, Contact Corresponding Author, Contact Publisher, Contact Publisher and Corresponding Author, and Not Specified.

- **Administration Method**: Indicates the administration method of the test. Values are Paper, Electronic, Interview, Physical Object, and Other.

- **Age Group**: Describes the age of the population in the test record document. Values are Childhood (birth to 12 yrs), Neonatal (birth to 1 mo), Infancy (2 to 23 mo), Preschool Age (2 to 5 yrs), School Age (6 to 12 yrs), Adolescence (13 to 17 yrs), Adulthood (18 yrs & older), Young Adulthood (18 to 29 yrs), Thirties (30 to 39 yrs), Middle Age (40 to 64 yrs), Aged (65 yrs & older), and Very Old (85 yrs & older).

- **Population Group**: Indicates the population that the test was administered to as described in the source document. Values are Human, Animal, Female, Male, Inpatient, and Outpatient.
Results List

When you are at the results list, you can reorder the results by clicking on the Sort by drop-down menu.

Note that the test construct(s) appears with each result, so you can see at a glance the psychological construct(s) covered by each test.

Narrow Results By (see next page)

This at-a-glance overview of the search results gives you several options to quickly narrow your results to relevant records.

You may narrow your results by using the faceted search options on the left-hand rail. The 10 top results in each category are provided:
Narrow Results by

Index Term
- Test Construction (1,132)
- Test Reliability (899)
- Test Validity (792)
- Rating Scales (253)
- Factor Structure (213)

Author Affiliation
- U California (83)
- U Michigan (28)
- Stanford U (21)
- U Minnesota (23)
- Arizona State U (18)

Test Construct
- Personality (13)
- Depression (11)
- Personality Traits (10)
- Anxiety (7)
- Executive Function (6)

Author
- Feindler, Eva L. (77)
- Rathus, Jill H. (77)
- Silver, Laura Beth (46)
- Scheier, Laura (17)
- Simon, Eli (17)

Test Year
- 1910 (1)
- 1918 (2)
- 1922 (1)
- 1923 (1)
- 1934 (1)

Age Group
- Adulthood (18 Yrs & Older) (1,248)
- Young Adulthood (18-29 Yrs) (597)
- Thirties (30-39 Yrs) (987)
- Middle Age (40-64 Yrs) (342)
- Adolescence (13-17 Yrs) (321)

Population Group
- Human (1,467)
- Female (1,226)
- Male (1,211)
- Outpatient (63)
- Inpatient (50)

Test Record Type
- Test Development (1,233)
- Test Review (287)
- Test Primary Data (103)
- Test Use (25)

Permissions
- May Use For Research/Teaching (1,276)
- Contact Publisher (104)
- Contact Corresponding Author (81)
- Contact Publisher And Corresponding Author (60)
- Not Specified (6)
2. Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY)

The MMY includes extensive coverage of tests published (commercially available) in English. Included are only those which are new or recently revised and include sufficient technical documentation. Each volume provides descriptive information, critical reviews, psychometric properties, and references related to their construction, validity, or use in various settings.

Search by Keyword

Search by Test Title

- Type the title of a test (ex: Slosson Intelligence). Enter full test name or only the main words in the test.
- Select Title from the drop down box and click Search.

Search by Test Title

- Type the title of a test (ex: Slosson Intelligence). Enter full test name or only the main words in the test.
- Select Title from the drop down box and click Search.
Search by Test Category - Useful to see a list for a broad topic such as *personality*. It is not necessary to enter a keyword, but you can if need to be more specific.

- Highlight the **Test Category** desired.
- Click the **Search** button.

Search by specific Indexes (such as acronyms)

Useful for: acronyms, administration mode, author, reviewer, publisher name, scores, test category, test code, test name, time and year of publication.

The drop down menus will list the available index options to select. Select an index and enter a term to search.

- Example: Select **Acronym**, then enter an acronym such as **SIT**, then click **Search** to retrieve a list of tests with that acronym.
- Example: Select **Scores**, then enter a keyword such as **depression**, then click **Search** to retrieve a list of tests which are used to test for depression.
OR BROWSE the Indexes

- On the blue menu bar, click on Indexes.
- Select an index to browse.
  - Example: Select Test Category, then click Browse. Mark a box, then click the Search button to retrieve a list of tests from that category.
  - Example: Select Scores, then enter a keyword such as depression, then click Browse. Mark a box, then click the Search button to retrieve a list of tests which are used to test for depression.

3. Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI)

Information about tests in health and behavioral sciences. Contains references to journal articles about the psychometric properties of tests and Mental Measurements Yearbook reviews. Search by test title.

4. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses

Provides full text of doctoral dissertations from students around the country (including Alliant PhD students), from the 1990’s to the present. Some include the full text of tests used in research. Search by title for dissertations indexed in PsycINFO and other databases. Or search by keywords for any topic.
5. PsycINFO

Exploring tests in previous research

PsycINFO is an ideal database for discovering tests that have been used in research. Before or after conducting a search (keyword or Thesaurus subject) on your topic, apply the Empirical Study limiter. Either scroll down the green Search Options bar, or click Search Options on the left side of the Results page. In Methodology, select EMPIRICAL STUDY and click Search.

All the results will be studies conducted by scientific method, and many will name the specific tests used:
To see the test titles, open the full article’s full record by clicking its title link. Scroll down to the Tests & Measures section for the test titles:

**Abstract:**
The current study used learned helplessness theory and legacy theory to examine experiential differences in voluntary vs. involuntary job redundancy in a baseline study (Study 1) and a 3-month retest (Study 2). The sample for Study 1 comprised 102 job seekers who had voluntarily taken a job redundancy and 114 job seekers who had been made involuntarily redundant from their last job. Results at Study 1 showed that voluntarily redundant participants experienced lower levels of depression and engaged in more job-search activity than those who experienced involuntary redundancy. Employees who became re-employed 3 months later (voluntarily redundant N = 28, involuntarily redundant N = 28) were compared on depression, organizational commitment, perceived job insecurity and perceived re-employment quality. The voluntarily redundant employees also experienced a significant drop in depression upon re-employment while the involuntarily redundant employees reported no significant changes to depression scores from baseline. Implications for practice and future research are discussed together with the limitations of the two studies. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2009 APA, all rights reserved)

**Subjects:**
*Depression (Emotion); *Employee Attitudes; *Job Search; *Personnel Termination; *Reemployment; Work (Attitude Toward)

**Classification:**
Personnel Attitudes & Job Satisfaction (3650)

**Population:**
Human (10)
Males (30)
Females (40)

**Location:**
Australia

**Age Group:**
Adulthood (18 yrs & older) (200)

**Tests & Measures:**
Coping with Job Loss Scale
Profile of Mood States—depression subscale
Generalized Self-Efficacy Scale
Quantitative Perceived Job Insecurity Scale

**Methodology:**
Empirical Study; Followup Study; Quantitative Study

**Format Availability:**
Electronic; Print

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**Using the Tests & Measures Index**

After determining some tests that interest you, use the Tests & Measures Index to find more research using them, and possibly their full text. On the PsycINFO main searching page, click the Indexes tab:
Use the pull-down menu to select Tests & Measures:

Type the title or first word(s) of a test you’re looking for, then click the Browse button:

Check the box for any tests you want to search, then click the Search button. The number of articles in PsycINFO for each is listed in the right column under “Records Count”. (Keep in mind that a test will often have variant titles, so you may want to search all the variants you suspect refer to the same test.)
The search results list all articles that report on empirical studies that used a specific test:

1. **Teachers’ goal orientations for teaching: Associations with instructional practices, interest in teaching, and burnout.**
   Retelsdorf, Jan; Butler, Ruth; Stredke, Lillian; Schiefel, Ulrich; Learning and Instruction, Vol 20(1), Feb, 2010. pp. 39-46. [Journal Article]
   Database: PsycINFO
   Δ Add to folder | Cited References: 83
   Check LinkSource for more information

2. **A longitudinal study of coping and gender in a female-dominated occupation: Predicting teachers’ burnout.**

To confirm that a study indeed used the test, click any article title to open its full record in PsycINFO. Scroll down until you see the Tests & Measures section. It lists all the tests that were used in the study:
Finding the full text of tests

There are several techniques for finding actual test questions. One is to locate the first article that discussed the development of the test. Once you learn the test author’s name, you can look for it in references lists of articles reporting on studies that used the test. You can also search for all articles in PsycINFO written by that author and browse through some of the older ones.

Another strategy for finding test questions is to add the word appended to your search, which retrieves articles that contain the full text of a test. Simply type appended in a search box, and select the Tests & Measures field from the pull-down menu:

![Search results for appended tests](image)

The search above retrieves over 1,000 articles or books that include the full text of a test. Unfortunately, not all articles are available full text via PsycINFO. (Remember to do a Journal Title Search in the Library catalog! If a journal is not available, then request the article via Interlibrary Loan.)
The “appended” strategy can be used together with any kind of search. For example, the Thesaurus search below retrieved several articles with the full text of occupational stress tests:

1. **Burnout in nurses and physicians working at an oncology department.**
   - Alacacioglu, Ahmet; Yavuzsen, Tugba; Diriz, Melih; Ozttop, Ilhan; Yilmaz, Ugur; Psycho-Oncology, Vol 18(5), May, 2009. pp. 543-548. [Journal Article]
   - Database: PsycINFO
   - Add to Folder | Cited References: (20)
   - Check LinkSource for more information

2. **Workplace health friendliness: A cross level model for predicting workers’ health.**

To determine which tests are available in full text, click the article title to open its full record:
Scroll down to the Tests & Measures section. This article contains the Maslach Burnout Inventory-Student Survey:

To find the test full text, click the PDF or HTML links to download the article, then look at the end in the Appendix. (Sometimes test questions are located in Tables inside articles, so check there too.):

Appendix 1

Maslach Burnout Inventory-Student Survey (MBI-SS)

Exhaustion

1. I feel emotionally drained by my studies.
II. BOOKS, DISSERTATIONS, TEST KITS & JOURNALS

1. Alliant dissertations

Some Alliant dissertations include the full text of tests in their appendices. On library homepage, click Alliant Theses, then use the pull-down menu on the left to select Tests. Type in the test you’re looking for and click Search:

Clicking the title link retrieves a list of dissertations that used that test. Ways to refine your search: 1) arrange your results list by date-published, using the System Sorted pull-down menu to select Reverse Year and 2) limit to LA dissertations only, using the View Entire Collection pull-down and click Search.
2. Test kits

The Library has some actual tests available for checkout. To see a complete list, go to Advanced Search and type the test you want in the search box. By Location, select Los Angeles Campus; and by Material Type, select TEST/KIT. To see the most recently published edition, use the limiter Sort: sorted by date.

This search retrieves the LA library’s test collection. Because these tests are primarily for use by students in assessment courses, you will need a letter from one of your dissertation committee members in order to borrow one:
3. Collections of published tests

These books contain the full text of some tests. Shelved in Test Reference, to left of Circulation area:


4. Books with information about tests & testing (Shelved in Test Reference)


III. WEB SITES

- Google and Google Scholar ([http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)) Sometimes you can find the full text of a test free online. However, unless the source clearly states it is copyright-free and in the public domain, you must contact the author(s) for permission. Even if such is stated, it is still wise to contact the author(s) to learn about changes or updates to the instrument.

- Social-Personality Psychology Questionnaire Instrument Compendium provides links to web pages where (a) a test’s full text is shown, and (b) was put on the web by its author, thus ensuring that the instrument was intended for the public domain.

- American Psychological Association does not provide tests but does have a good Web page titled “FAQ/Finding Information About Psychological Tests.”

- ETS Test Link is a searchable database of information about 25,000 tests from the early 1900s to the present. Brief descriptions are free but the full text of tests is not. Some are available for purchase from ETS; for others, links are provided to the publishers.