

Searching Databases for Test Information and Measures

The Libraries obtain the databases below through commercial licensing agreements that restrict access to current students, faculty, and staff and all onsite users. Onsite users may gain access, but only current students, faculty and staff of the university may connect from remote off-campus locations. For more information on remote access see http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/how_do_i/connect_from_home.shtml

PsycINFO http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/psycinfo.shtml

There are three ways to locate items that include the actual measure. For comprehensiveness, you may want to use all three methods.

- Click the More Fields icon. From the alphabetical list of fields, select Tests & Measures by placing a check mark in the box. Scroll back up to the top of the page and enter the name of a test or a keyword and the term “appended”, e.g., *self-esteem and appended*. Click the Perform Search button. The Complete Reference page will list the measures used in the study in the Tests and Measures field, including those that are appended. Shortcut: On the opening page of the database enter the following in the search box: (*your keyword and appended*).tm. Do include the parentheses, i.e., (*anxiety and appended*).tm.
- You can search for your topic or a specific measure and then LIMIT the results to the Tests & Measures field. On the opening page of the database enter your keyword and the word “appended”, e.g. *eating disorders and appended* in the search box and click the Search button. Once the search has been executed, click the More Limits link; check the box next to Tests & Measures. Click the Limit A Search button. Examine the Complete Reference to see what is appended
- For a broader search, on the opening page of the database simply enter your topic keyword(s) along with your keywords describing the type of measure(s) you want and the keyword "appended." For example: *social support and (test or measure or questionnaire or scale or survey or assessment) and appended*. Do use the parentheses as indicated.

CINAHL-Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/cinahl.shtml

To find descriptions of measures, including year developed, question format, psychometrics, scoring, etc. in CINAHL:

- You can conduct a search on your topic and LIMIT the search to Publication Type-Research Instrument. Enter your topic in the search box, e.g., social support, and from the Limit Results area directly below, select Research Instrument from the Publication Type pull-down menu. Now execute the search by clicking the Search button. The complete record provides a description of the measure. To find those records that include an actual copy of the measure, select Linked Full Text from the Limit Results area in addition to the limit to Research Instrument.
- To see a current list of instrument descriptions in CINAHL, click the Advanced Search tab. Enter the phrase “research instrument” in the first search box, and select Publication Type from the pull-down menu to the right. You will get a list of measures with descriptions. To limit this search to records that include a copy of the measure, again check the Linked Full Text box from the Limit Results area before executing the search.

The Instrumentation Field in CINAHL includes the names of instruments used in research studies indexed in the database. You can search it by first clicking the Advanced Search tab. Enter the name of a measure, e.g., *Cheek and Buss Shyness Scale*, or a keyword, e.g., *coping*, in the first search box, and select Instrumentation from the pull-down menu to the right. This search strategy will provide all studies that used a particular measure, etc.

ERIC-Education Resources Information Center

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/eric.shtml

To find descriptions of measures and in some cases, the actual measure, enter your topic keyword(s) along with your keywords describing the type of measure(s) you want and the keyword "appended." For example: *reading and (test or measure or questionnaire or scale or survey or assessment) and appended*. Do use the parentheses as indicated.

Health and Psychosocial Instruments- HaPI

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/health_psych.shtml

This database provides information about measures-actual measures are not included in the database. The Complete Reference may contain an abstract, source, references, subscales, availability of reliability/validity information, number of questions, contact information.

- Enter a keyword or phrase, e.g., *social support*, and click the Search button. You can then limit your results (click the More Limits link) to a particular source code as follows:
 Primary Source-refers to items that may contain the measure and/or discuss its development, modification, or adaptation.
 Secondary Source-can include articles that describe how the test was used, outcomes, and more, as well as some level of detail about the test or measure, such as sample questions.

Compendium Source-information from an instrument compendium such as *Test Critiques*, books on instruments by topic-may include actual instruments.

Review Source-information from a review source such as Mental Measurements Yearbook and journal articles that review instruments.

Translated Source-information on instruments translated into other languages from their original language.

- If you do not know the full instrument title, but only have an abbreviation, use the qualifier **.af** to search all fields. For example, entering cbcl.af in the search box will retrieve all records that refer to the Child Behavior Checklist.

Dissertations and Theses

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/search_guides/digital_diss.shtml

Although dissertations are considered unpublished research, they can be a source of information about measures, including use with/in particular populations, settings. In some cases, the dissertation may describe the development of a new measure.

- Combining subject names or codes with keywords is an effective way of finding dissertations that describe measures. Two subjects are relevant: psychological tests (0632) and educational evaluation (0288). Click the Advanced Search tab. Enter your term, e.g., resiliency in the first search box and select Index Terms (keywords) from the pull-down menu to the right. In the second search box enter the subject name or code, e.g., 0632 and select Subject name/code from the pull-down menu to the right. Click the Search button and examine your results.

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