Searches for research instruments and information about research instruments can be tricky. This help sheet is designed to help you understand some of the issues surrounding instruments as well as introduce resources that can be used to find information about them.

The first question you need to answer is this: Do I need to find information about a research instrument or do I need to obtain a copy for use in research? If you need information about a research instrument, what kind of information do you need: information on content, development, psychometric properties (reliability, validity, etc.)? If you plan to use the instrument in research, you need to be concerned not only with obtaining the instrument, but also obtaining permission to use the instrument. Here’s a review of the main sources of test and instrument information.

**CINAHL**

CINAHL ([http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/cinahl.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/cinahl.html)). CINAHL is best known as a tool to identify articles in the nursing and allied health literature, but it can also be used to find information on instruments used in nursing and allied health research. Beginning in 1994, CINAHL began indexing research instruments. (NOTE: The indexing is retrospective; many of the indexed instruments were developed before 1994; there doesn’t appear to be any new entries after 2005). Each instrument record includes developers’ names, title, abstract, and details about the instrument which may include all or some of the following: year developed, purpose, variables of interest, original population, question format, administration, scoring, psychometrics, copyright holders, modifications, and ordering address. To identify instruments for a given condition or situation, do a search for the topic of interest, then limit the search to the publication type Research Instrument. To see the full listing of instruments indexed in CINAHL, type PT research instrument in the Find box and hit search. The PT (Publication Type) convention tells CINAHL to search for “research instrument” in the publication type field.

In addition to indexing research instruments, CINAHL also includes a field named Instrumentation in the Select a Field drop down menu. This field includes names of research instruments and abbreviations of instruments used in research studies. Although names of clinical assessment tools also appear in this field, instrument names do not include subscales, revision numbers, edition numbers, etc. To search the instrumentation field, enter the search in this manner: IN affect balance scale. When searching by name, it is most effective to use a unique term or phrase from the name of the instrument. For more information about searching CINAHL, see [http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/education/cinahl.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/education/cinahl.html).

**HAPI**

HAPI - Health and Psychosocial Instruments Online - ([http://utmost.cl.utoledo.edu/record=b3019226-S3](http://utmost.cl.utoledo.edu/record=b3019226-S3)) provides ready access to information on measurement instruments (questionnaires, interview schedules, checklists, index measures, coding schemes/manuals, rating scales, projective techniques, vignettes/scenarios, tests) in the health fields, psychosocial sciences, organizational behavior, and library and information science. [Note: The subscription to the HAPI resource is scheduled to be dropped sometime in the future].

**Finding Information on and Obtaining Research Instruments**
PsycINFO (http://rave.ohiolink.edu/databases/login/psyc), the psychology database, can be used to find information on tests and instruments as well as research using particular instruments. PsycINFO has an instrumentation field too, but it is searched with a slightly different format. To search the instrumentation field, enter beck depression inventory.ins. in the search box. When searching by name, it is most effective to use a unique term or phrase from the name of the instrument. A subject heading search for the name of the instrument will result in articles about the instrument: psychometric properties, analysis, evaluation, etc. There are also limits for tests and measures (look in Classification Codes limits). For more information about searching PsycINFO, see http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/education/psycinfo.html.

Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print (MMYwTIP)

This database combines Mental Measurements Yearbook (volume 1 to the present) with Tests in Print. The resource contains reviews of English-language tests and instruments that are commercially published and which are still in print. MMY reviews usually provide descriptive information about the test, psychometric properties, test development and norming, and a summary including recommended uses.

The Tests in Print information includes test purpose, test publisher, in-print status, price, test acronym, intended test population, administration times, publication date(s), and test author(s).

To access MMYwTIP online version, do a title search for MMY in the library catalog, or use the Full Text Resources link on the Mulford Library homepage and click on Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print.

The Buros Institute database is another tool for identifying tests that will be included in the MMW w/ TIP. The searchable database can be accessed at (http://buros.unl.edu/buros/isp/search.jsp).

Other Online Resources for Tests and Instrument Information

Health Services and Sciences Research Resources from the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hsrr_search/). HSRR contains information about research datasets and instruments/indices employed in health services research, behavioral and social sciences, and public health. Includes links to PubMed searches and publishers’ web sites.

TestLink Database from ETS (http://www.ets.org/testcoll/). The Test Collection Database contains descriptions of over 25,000 tests that reside in the library of Educational Testing Service. Tests in Microfiche (TIM) is a subset of this collection consisting of 1,000+ tests. They include research and unpublished instruments that may be of interest to students doing research.


Other Print Resources for Test and Instrument Information

Tests: A Comprehensive Reference for Assessments in Psychology, Education, and Business (Mulford Reference Collection BF176 T345 2003). This volume contains the following information about each test: title, authors, year, publisher, population, purpose, description, administration, and cost.

Encyclopedia of Psychological Assessment (Mulford Reference Collection BF176 E56 2003). This two-volume work covers a wide range of test/instrument issues, from information on assessments in specific areas (achievement, child development, coping, eating disorders, stress, violence, social networks, brain activity, etc.), methodologies (self-report, analogue behavioral observation, interviewing, development of research instruments, etc.), and measurement theory (reliability, validity, classical test theory, generalizability theory, item response theory, norm- and criterion-referenced assessment, factor analysis, item bias, etc.). It includes a reader’s guide at the beginning of each volume to help you find relevant sections.
**Directory of Unpublished Experimental Mental Measures** [1974-2007]. (Carlson Library Reference BF431 G625). This nine-volume set compiles a variety of non-standardized test instruments in education, psychology, and sociology, which can be used for evaluating aptitude, behavior, creativity, and more. Evaluations of the instruments are not provided. The title index for the first seven volumes of the series is included. Please note that these volumes are for library use only. Check the OhioLINK Central Catalog for holdings information of other libraries.

**Measures for Psychological Assessment: A Guide to 3,000 Original Sources and Their Applications** (1975). If you’re looking for information on a classic psychological instrument, this might be the source for you. A number of OhioLINK libraries allow this volume to circulate, so you can request a copy be sent for your use.

When searching the OhioLINK Central Catalog for other print resources, remember that some test directories cover instruments in specific disciplines, such as the *Directory of Psychological Tests in the Sport and Exercise Sciences* and *Child Health Assessment: A Handbook of Measurement Techniques*.

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**Obtaining a Copy of an Instrument**

How you obtain an instrument to use for a project depends upon whether the instrument has been published or not.

*If the instrument is available from a commercial test publisher,* you'll need to contact the publisher and purchase the number of copies that you need. (Depending upon the instrument, you may be able to code and analyze them yourself, or you may have to return them to the publisher for analysis.)

*If the instrument is in the ETS Tests in Microfiche Collection,* you can order a copy of the instrument from ETS. Go to www.ets.org/testcoll/ and click on the **Order a Test** tab. The use of these instruments are described under the **Terms of Use** tab.

*If the instrument has only been published in the literature,* you need to ask for copyright permission from the copyright holder. Sometimes the journal publisher is the copyright holder; sometimes it is the author of the article. Even when the journal publisher is the copyright holder, contact the people who constructed the instrument anyway because there may be a newer version of the instrument available. (As you can imagine, this sometimes entails contacting multiple individuals between the journal publisher and the authors, especially if the author has moved to a new institution.)

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**Additional Help with Research Instruments**

You can get additional help finding and obtaining research instruments from a reference librarian at one of the University Libraries: [http://www.utoledo.edu/library/help/ask.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/library/help/ask.html).