Tests and measurement in education

Education & Music Library guide to resources

The choice or development of appropriate instruments is an important issue in educational research and practice. Reliable data collection and interpretation support evidence-based decision making in policy development, program delivery, and at the level of individual intervention. Testing can address a wide range of attributes in both mainstream and special education contexts, giving rise to an extensive body of literature. This guide explains how to locate print and online resources available through the Library.

Please note that the Library does not acquire commercially published test kits, manuals or instruments. Selected test materials are available to faculty and graduate students in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education. An inventory of resources in the EPSE Test Library is available online at: http://www.usask.ca/education/epse/graduate-program/inventory_mar07.pdf. Direct further enquiries to the EPSE General Office, College of Education, Room 3104 (Phone: 966-7720).

A. FINDING BOOKS

To find books on educational and psychological testing, consult the library catalogue (http://sundog.usask.ca). The catalogue identifies relevant publications in all branches of the University of Saskatchewan Library, as well as providing access to a growing collection of electronic books.

Subject searches use relevant Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) including:

- **Ability – Testing**
  (see also the subheading Ability testing, e.g. Reading – Ability testing)
- **Achievement tests**
- **Attitude (Psychology) – Testing**
- **Behavioral assessment**
- **Educational tests and measurements**
- **Intelligence tests**
  (see also the subheading Intelligence testing, e.g. Children – Intelligence testing)
- **Personality assessment**
  (see also the subheading Psychological testing, e.g. Exceptional children – Psychological testing)
- **Projective techniques**
- **Psychological tests for children**
- **Psychometrics**
- **Test bias**

To find information about diagnostic testing, add the subheading Diagnosis to a relevant subject heading, e.g.

- **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder — Diagnosis**
- **Learning disabilities – Diagnosis**

To find information about classroom assessment of student performance, appropriate headings include:

- **Examinations – Design and construction**
- **Examinations – Validity**
- **Grading and marking (Students)**
- **Students, Rating of**
To find information about program evaluation, appropriate headings include:

- Educational accountability
- Educational evaluation
- Educational indicators
- Educational surveys
- Evaluation – Methodology
- Evaluation research (Social action programs)

Use the “Limit / Sort Search” link appearing on your search Result Page to limit by year of publication, library location, etc.

A Word search (http://sundog.usask.ca/search/Y) retrieves records containing individual terms or phrases in any of the following fields: Title, Keyword, Notes (General, Summary, and Contents), or Subject. A word search allows you to find material by test acronym and other terms not used in LCSH indexing. It also provides access to materials in the catalogue that lack LCSH indexing, including: electronic theses; most print theses held in Special Collections; and many documents held in Government Publications.

You can also browse holdings by Library of Congress call number using the catalogue’s call number search (http://sundog.usask.ca/search/n). Resources are located in these call number areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BF39</td>
<td>Psychometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF176.5</td>
<td>Psychological tests and testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF432.5</td>
<td>Intelligence testing. Ability testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF722</td>
<td>Psychological tests for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB1131</td>
<td>Child development (Education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB2822.75 - LB2823</td>
<td>Educational evaluation. Educational surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB3051 - LB3060.87</td>
<td>Educational tests, measurements, evaluations and examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC469 - RC473</td>
<td>Clinical psychology – Examination. Diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z5814.E9</td>
<td>Educational tests and measurement -- Bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z5814.P8</td>
<td>Psychology (Educational) – Bibliography [Including ability testing, mental tests, educational tests and measurements, project method, etc.]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. FINDING REFERENCE WORKS

Directories & test reviews

The major references identifying commercially published tests include:

Educ Lib - Reference Z5814 .P8B96 16th 2005 (Prior volumes in stacks - Library use only)  
Each volume contains specialist reviews of new or revised tests available in English. *Tests in Print (TIP)* serves as a comprehensive index to the entire *MMY* series.

**Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print.** Lincoln, NB: Buros Institute of Mental Measurements.  
Electronic resource: Z5814 .P8M433  
Comprehensive coverage from Volume 1 to present.

*TIP* is a descriptive bibliography of commercially available tests in print, and an index to many out-of-print tests as well. References to the literature on specific tests were provided in *TIP* volumes I-V. With *TIP-VI*, the test references are discontinued. Cross-references are supplied for reviews in the *MMY* series, and for test references published in earlier volumes.

Educ Lib – Stacks: BF176 .T45 1984 (v.1-11 – Library use only)

In depth scholarly reviews include: the developmental background and historical context of each test; practical applications/uses; technical aspects (validity and reliability, normative data, etc); overall critiques; references.


Brief entries include: intended population, purpose, summary description, format, scoring, and cost where available. Reviews and references are not provided.

To find other reference works of this sort, add one of these subdivisions to a relevant subject heading: Abstracts; Catalogs; Directories; Bibliography.

**Handbooks & encyclopedias**

Many handbooks and encyclopedias are available in the library stacks or online. These works vary considerably in scope and content. Some serve the needs of practitioners. Others provide a comprehensive overview of research and practice, including contributions from experts on theory, methodology, important developments and outstanding issues in the field. Works identified as encyclopedias do not necessarily have an alphabetical arrangement. The designation of a comprehensive reference as a handbook or encyclopedia is sometimes simply a matter of editorial preference.

The following selection is indicative of the range of materials available through the Library:


C. SEARCHING DATABASES

Major databases

Our Databases page (http://library.usask.ca/find/resource.php) provides A-Z and subject area access to a wide range of databases. Extensive indexing of test literature is available in ERIC, PsycINFO and, to a lesser extent, MedLine. These databases are available on the Ovid platform, but each uses different fields and controlled vocabulary for indexing. Examples provided below use Ovid's "command line" syntax, which appends the appropriate field label to each word or phrase to be searched.

**ERIC (Ovid)**

U of S Connection: LB1028 .R429 (Multi-platform access, including Ovid)

- Subject indexing uses controlled vocabulary from the **ERIC thesaurus**. Select the “Map term to Subject Heading” option to search by subject, or access the thesaurus through the “Search Tools” option. Enter a term of interest, or explore the specific descriptors available under broad terms such as: Measures (Individuals); Evaluation; Achievement; Ability; Attitudes; Tests.

- Literature on specific instruments can be found by a keyword search on name and/or acronym; for more relevant results, search by full name in the Identifier (ID) field, e.g.:
  Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children III.id.

- Test reviews cannot be located using a single index term or field. Possible strategies include:
  - Search or limit with an appropriate term in the Publication type (PT) field, e.g. reports-evaluative.pt.
  - Search with an appropriate Subject descriptor (DE), e.g. Test reliability.de.
  - Search with an appropriate keyword, e.g. validity
• To find documents that reproduce an instrument in whole or part, search or limit on the term “Tests/Questionnaires” in the Publication type (PT) field:
  Personality measures.de. and Tests questionnaires.pt.

PsycINFO (Ovid)

U of S Connection: [http://library2.usask.ca/dbs/psychinfo.html](http://library2.usask.ca/dbs/psychinfo.html)

• Subject indexing uses controlled vocabulary from the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms. Select the “Map term to Subject Heading” option to search by subject, or access the thesaurus through the “Search Tools” option. Enter a term of interest, or explore the specific descriptors available under broad terms such as: Measurement; Diagnosis; Evaluation; Test construction.

• Search broad subject categories in the Classification Code (CC) field. Relevant terms include: Educational measurement; Developmental scales schedules; Personality scales inventories; Tests testing.

• Literature on specific instruments can be found by a keyword search on name and/or acronym; for more relevant results, several strategies are possible:
  - Search major tests in the Subject Headings (SH) field
  - Search instruments not treated as a subject term in the Key Concepts (ID) field
  - Search any discussed instrument in the Tests & Measures (TM) field

• Test reviews can be located by searching in the Reviewed Item Title (RT) field, e.g.
  Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children.rt.

• When a document reproduces an instrument in its entirety, the TM field adds "Appended" after the test name.

MEDLINE (Ovid)

U of S Connection: [http://library2.usask.ca/dbs/medlineo.html](http://library2.usask.ca/dbs/medlineo.html)

• Subject indexing uses controlled vocabulary from the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). Select the “Map term to Subject Heading” option to search by subject, or access the Subject thesaurus through the “Search Tools” option. Enter a term of interest, or explore specific descriptors available under broad terms such as: Educational measurement; Psychological tests. Searches may optionally be limited by available subheadings.

• Literature on specific instruments can be found by a keyword search on name and/or acronym. Some well established tests are indexed in the Subject Headings (SH) field, e.g., Wechsler scales.sh.

• Test reviews cannot be located using a single index term or field. Possible strategies include:
  - Search or limit with an appropriate term in the Publication type (PT) field, e.g.: Evaluation studies.pt.
  - Search with an appropriate Subject heading (SH), e.g.: Factor analysis statistical.sh.
  - Search with an appropriate keyword, e.g. validity

• There is no reliable way of limiting a search to documents which reproduce a test instrument.
Graduate research

While ERIC and PsycInfo index some unpublished graduate research, a more comprehensive source for identifying this literature is ProQuest’s Dissertations & Theses: Fulltext database:

Dissertations & Theses: Fulltext (ProQuest)

U of S Connection: https://library.usask.ca/node/136037

Use the “Subject name/code” option to search broad terms, e.g.: Psychological tests, Educational evaluation.
Use the “Index terms (keywords)” option to search more specific terms, including test names.
Use the “Citation and abstract” option to locate tests identified by name and/or acronym in the Title, Abstract or Keywords fields.
Full text is available for many documents produced since 1997. Any original and unpublished instruments reproduced in appendices remain under copyright of their author(s).

Dissertations & Theses: Fulltext provides reliable access to doctoral research, including discrete access to dissertations completed at the University of Saskatchewan through Dissertations & Theses @ University of Saskatchewan (https://library.usask.ca/node/135794). However, the University of Saskatchewan and many other institutions do not routinely submit Master theses for inclusion. Several complementary search strategies can be used to identify this material:

Search the Theses Canada Portal (http://www.collectionscanada.ca/thesescanada) for theses described in the Library and Archives Canada AMICUS catalogue, including a growing collection of electronic theses.

Search the Canadian Association of Research Libraries’ Open Archives Initiative Harvester site (http://carl-abrc-oai.lib.sfu.ca) for electronic theses from participating Canadian universities, including the University of Saskatchewan.

Search the library catalogue of the degree-granting institution for records of print and/or electronic theses.

Search for an institutional repository housing digital theses at the degree-granting institution, e.g. University of Saskatchewan Electronic Theses & Dissertations (http://library2.usask.ca/etd)

Other databases

Other subject specific databases providing access to literature on testing and measurement include:

CBCA Education
ProQuest Education Journals
CINAHL Plus with Fulltext (Ebsco)

PsycCritiques
Sociological Abstracts

Multidisciplinary databases providing access to literature on testing and measurement include:

Academic Search Complete
Canadian Research Index
Expanded Academic ASAP
General OneFile (Gale Infotrac)

Informaworld Journals (Taylor & Francis)
SCOPUS
ScienceDirect (Elsevier)
Web of Knowledge: Web of Science (ISI)

Connect to these databases via an information page by performing a title search in the Library catalogue (http://sundog.usask.ca), or through the A-Z links on our Databases page (http://library.usask.ca/find/resource.php).
D. SELECTED JOURNALS

The most recent issues of print journals are located in the library’s Current Journals area, and are for library use only. Bound volumes are located in the stacks, and may be borrowed. Online versions of many journals are also available, including current issues and an increasing number of full back files. Selected titles include:

**Assessment for effective intervention.** Educ Lib: LC3950 .D53 v. 26- (2001-


**Measurement and evaluation in counseling and development.** Educ Lib: LB1027.5 .M48 v.18- (1984-

**Practical Assessment, Research and Evaluation (PARE).** Internet resource: v.1- (1988-

**Psychological Reports.** Murray Lib – 4th Flr: BF21 .P97 v.1 - (1955-

Regular issues include a section focusing on “Evaluation and Assessment.”


To determine if a particular journal is available through University of Saskatchewan Library subscription or database license, search by title in the catalogue ([http://sundog.usask.ca/search/](http://sundog.usask.ca/search/)) or in the Electronic journals directory ([http://library.usask.ca/ejournals](http://library.usask.ca/ejournals)).

To find other journals in the catalogue, add the form subdivision “Periodicals” to a relevant subject heading, e.g., Educational tests and measurements – Periodicals.
E. ETHICS AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES

For provincial statutes relevant to testing and measurement in education, including the *Education Act, 1995*, and the *Psychologists Act, 1997*, see the Queen’s Printer **Freelaw** site (http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca).

Research ethics


Practice guidelines


Canadian Psychological Association. (1987). *Guidelines for educational and psychological testing*. Ottawa: CPA. This document is no longer current and, until such time as it is updated, the CPA Board of Directors recommends using the AERA/APA/NCME *Standards for educational and psychological testing* (1999).


F. SELECTED INTERNET RESOURCES

**Associations**


American Psychological Association. APA science: testing and assessment 

Canadian Association of Psychologists in Schools 
[http://www.cpa.ca/CASP](http://www.cpa.ca/CASP)

National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) 
[http://www.ncme.org](http://www.ncme.org)

National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) 
[http://www.cse.ucla.edu/index.asp](http://www.cse.ucla.edu/index.asp)

**Test publishers**

Association of Test Publishers ([http://www.testpublishers.org](http://www.testpublishers.org))
Provides links to the web pages of current members, some of whom offer free or discounted access to test resources for use in graduate research

Pro-Ed: an international publisher ([http://www.proedinc.com](http://www.proedinc.com))
Offers free test kits for use in the completion of master’s thesis or dissertation research

**Test Link: the Test Collection at ETS** ([http://www.ets.org/testcoll](http://www.ets.org/testcoll))
A database of more than 25,000 tests and other measurement devices providing information on standardized tests and research instruments available to researchers, graduate students and teachers, from the early 1900s to the present. The largest compilation of such materials in the world, it includes tests acquired from a variety of U.S. publishers and individual test authors, as well as some tests from Canada, Great Britain and Australia.

Ask Us – Education Library: [http://library.usask.ca/askus](http://library.usask.ca/askus)

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avp
edguide/tests.doc
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