

Evaluation Research in Social Work

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Finding a Specific Measure

There are many ways you can identify a measure you can use for evaluation.

- You may uncover a measure during a literature review
 - and both terms must be present
juvenile delinquents and assessment
 - or either term may be present
juvenile delinquents or juvenile delinquency
 - () group terms joined by OR when you also have AND in a search
assessment and (juvenile delinquents or juvenile delinquency)
 - * wildcard, different databases may have different symbols but an asterisk is common
*delinquen** would find delinquency or delinquents

Social Work Abstracts

If your topic search retrieves a lot of records think about adding terms to identify articles reporting studies (study, measure, instrument).

Be prepared to try different words that describe your topic, especially searching *Social Work Abstracts*. For example, *Social Work Abstracts* uses the terms *family violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and battered women*.

If the article is really about a specific measure, and not just reporting on a study that used an instrument, these descriptors (subject words) could have been assigned.

assessment *questionnaires*

PsycINFO

Use the online **thesaurus** to generate ideas for search terms. Besides looking up your topic words, look up *measurement* and *evaluation* in the thesaurus. Limit to particular **age groups** from the Advanced Search screen. You might also be interested in the **methodology** limit.

To find articles that include the instrument try searching with phrases:
test appended, survey appended, questionnaire appended, instrument appended

If you know the name of a specific measure but are having trouble searching with it, look in the browsable Index (click on link near top of screen) of Tests and Measures (use pull down menu)

- Consult some of the books listed on this handout
- Search ***Test Review Locator*** (listed below) or the ***HAPI*** (Health and Psychosocial Instruments) database (select it from Article Databases & Indexes www.sc.edu/library/er)

Finding Reviews of a Specific Measure

Test Review Locator

<http://buos.unl.edu/buos/jsp/search.jsp>

This source may direct you to *Test Critiques* or *Mental Measurements Yearbook*. Some of the reviews are available online for a fee.

Test Critiques 10 volumes, latest published in 1994

Reference BF176 .T418

Use the cumulative test title index in the last volume. If the test is in this set you'll find lots of descriptive information plus a list of further references.

Mental Measurements Yearbook Z5814 .P8 B932 latest edition Ready Reference, older in Reference collection

Getting Your Hands on a Known Instrument

- Try a Google search. For the purpose of this class you may be able to find enough of the instrument on the web.
- Look and see if it is included in any of the books listed on this handout. Sorry, there's no way to know which instruments have been published in books.
- If it is a published test, you may need to contact the publisher and purchase the test. Consult ***Tests in Print*** Reference Z5814 .E9 .T47
- Tests that are not commercially available are referred to as "unpublished." Consult ***Directory of Unpublished Experimental Measures*** Reference BF431 .D455
Title index for the Directory of Unpublished Experimental Mental Measures : Volumes 1-7 Reference BF431 .D456
- If you still couldn't get your hands on the instrument, you may need to contact the author of the test for permission to use the instrument.

Collections of Measures

Measures for Clinical Practice: A Sourcebook. Fischer and Corcoran. 2 volumes

Reference BF176 .C66 2000

Measures are arranged by use with adults, couples, families, or children. No title index, scan the table of contents. There is a cross-index by problem area.

Handbook of Tests and Measurements for Black Populations

Reference BF176 .H37 1996 (vol 1-2)

Measures of Personality and Social Psychological Attitudes

Reference BF698.4 .M38 1990

Measures are grouped by topic, scan the table of contents. Each chapter begins with a discussion of key issues, locating and selecting measures, and a brief discussion of the measures reviewed.

Handbook of Sexuality-Related Measures

Reference HQ60.H36 1998

Handbook of Family Measurement Techniques

Reference HQ728.T68 1990

Handbook of Tests and Measurement in Education and the Social Sciences

Reference LB3051 .L4543 2000

The Special Educator's Comprehensive Guide to 301 Diagnostic Tests

Reference LC 4019.P53 2006

Sociological Measurement: An Inventory of Scales and Indices

Reference Z7164 .S68 B6 (1967)

Encyclopedias for Overview Information

Encyclopedia of Psychological Assessment

Reference BF 39.E497 2003 (2 volumes)

Encyclopedia of Statistics in Behavioral Science

Reference BF 39 .E498 2005 (4 volumes)

Encyclopedia of Social Measurement

Reference H 62 .E53 2005 (3 volumes)